Jan. 30th—Feb. 5th, 1986, No. 4 75¢

THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION

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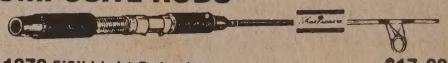

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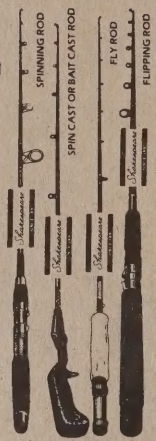

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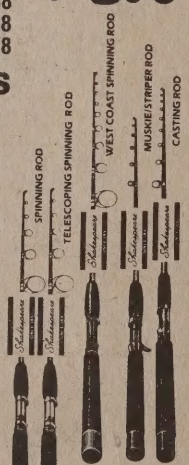

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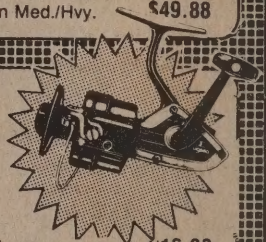

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 21, Number 4 January 30th, 1986

FEATURES:

ROD BUILDER'S WORKSHOP: CONVENTIONAL BOAT ROD
by George Sanderson 14

FISHERMAN TRAVEL LOG: SANTEE COOPER COUNTRY
by Russ Wilson 16

HUDSON RIVER STRIPED BASS TAGGING RESULTS
by John Waldman & Dennis Dunning 20

1985 REVIEW: INSHORE AT MONTAUK
by Capt. John DeMaio 22

THE POOL SHARK
by Matt Ahern 26

DEVELOPING YOUR ROD BUILDING SKILLS
Part One — by Capt. Pete & Tom Mikoleski 28

SOME BASIC SURF TIPS
by Tom FitzSimmons 32

THE WINTER FLY
by Fred Laager 34

RECORD BREAKERS
by Fred Guardineer 37

DEPARTMENTS:

PASS IT ON 4
BOATS FOR ANGLERS 8
PRODUCT REVIEW 10
THE TACKLE DOCTOR 12
FISHING REPORTS 38
THE FISHERMAN'S CLASSIFIED 44
TIDE & SOLUNAR TABLES 47

ABOUT THE COVER:

Montauk boatmen were treated to a deceptively good run of stripers in November. For a look at how anglers fared with other species at the Point in 1985, see Captain John DeMaio's year end review on page 22.

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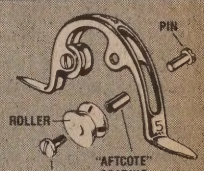

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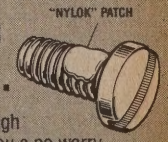

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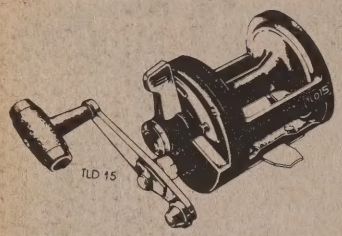

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SPRING BOATING COURSES

With the recent New York Boat Show signaling the start of the 1986 season, the United States Power Squadrons' District 3 reminds boaters and would-be boaters that public Boating classes will be conducted this spring from Brooklyn Heights to Riverhead.

The 20 Squadrons in District 3 have scheduled the 10-week evening course in convenient locations throughout Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk. Topics covered in the course include: aids to navigation, chart reading, safe boat handling, use of a mariner's compass, marine knots, how to "read" the weather, and course plotting. Ownership of a boat is not required to attend the course, and it is open to men, women and teenagers.

Following are locations, dates of class registration and the telehone numbers to call for more information:

Bayside: Wed. 2-26, 7:30 pm, Int. School 74, (718) 639-9293.

Brooklyn: Brooklyn Heights, Thurs, 1-30, 7PM, St. Francis Coll., (718) 338-3083. Sheepshead Bay, Tues, 2-18, 7:30 pm, Miramar Y.C., (718) 338-3083. Sheepshead Bay, Tues., 1-28, 7:30 PM, Kingsboro Community Coll., (718) 667-5990.

Commack Area: To be determined, (516) 732-2210.

Dix Hills: Wed., 3-5, 8PM, Half Hollow Hills East H.S., (516) 421-0774 and (516) 266-2498.

East Northport: Tues, 2-25, 8PM, Northport H.S., (516) 421-0774 and (516) 266-2498.

Elmont: Wed., 3-15, 7:45PM, Elmont H.S., 516-536-0979.

Floral Park: Thurs., 3-6, 7:45 PM, Sewanhaka H.S., 516-536-0979.

Flushing: Tues., 2-25, 8PM, Flushing H.S., 718-639-9293.

Forest Hills: Thurs. 2-27, 8PM, Forest Hills H.S., 718-639-9293.

Garden City: Wed. 3-5, 7:45 PM, Garden City H.S., 516-536-0979.

Glen Head: Tues. 2-25, 8PM, North Shore H.S., 516-676-7417.

Great Neck Area: To be determined, 516-883-3261.

Greenvale: Wed., 2-19, 8PM, C.W. Post Coll., 516-364-0240.

Hewlett: Wed., 3-15, 8PM, Hewlett H.S., 516-825-8658.

Islip: Tues. 1-28 & Thurs. 1-30, 7:30PM, Islip H.S., 516-587-6739.

Lindenhurst: Wed. 2-26, 7:30PM, Lindenhurst Jr. H.S., 516-957-7860.

Manhasset: Mon. 3-3, 8PM, Shelter Rock H.S., 516-676-7417.

Massapequa Area: To be determined, 516-541-5018.

Mastic Beach: Tues. 3-4, 7:30PM, William Floyd H.S., 516-878-1887.

Medford: Mon., 2-24, Wed. 2-26, 7PM, Patchogue H.S., 516-472-3051.

New Hyde Park: Thurs. 3-6, 7:45 PM, New Hyde Park H.S.; Wed. 3-5, 7:45 PM, Herricks Community Center, 516-536-0979.

Oceanside: Mon. 2-24, 7:45PM, Oceanside H.S., 516-536-0979.

Port Washington: Tues. 2-4, 8PM, Manorhaven School, 516-627-3779.

Riverhead: Tues. 1-21, 7PM, Suffolk Community Coll., East Campus (Orient Bldg., Rm. 104), 516-298-4512 and 516-728-6280.

Smithtown Area: To be determined, 516-269-4373.

Syosset: Wed. 3-5, 8PM, Syosset H.S., 516-921-2509.

Valley Stream: Tues. 2-4, 8PM, North Valley Stream H.S., 516-825-8658.

Wantagh: Wed. 1-29, 7PM, Seaford Jr. H.S., 516-799-8500.

The United States Power Squadrons is an association of men and women whose objectives are to encourage and promote a high standard of skill in the handling and navigation of power and sail boats; and to promote the study of the science and art of navigation, seamanship and small boat handling.

ENERGY OFFICIAL SEES BRIGHT FUTURE

"Adequate supply at a reasonable price is the primary goal of the U.S. Department of Energy," says Ted Garrish, assistant secretary for Congressional, Legislative and Public Affairs at DOE. Addressing the American Recreation Coalition's Roundtable, Garrish said five strategies guide U.S. energy policy toward its goal, and there is reason for optimism about solving energy problems now and in the future.

A "market orientation" is one of the most important strategic elements, he told the group of recreation community leaders. "People should determine what they use [gas] for," not the government. "This is better for the economy and better for recreation," he said. The decontrol of oil prices and efforts to phase out a counter-productive entitlement program have also contributed to a more responsive oil market, according to Garrish. The Administration will continue to ask Congress to decontrol natural gas.

A strong domestic petroleum industry is important to long-term energy supply. Garrish said the U.S. "should not impede its own ability to produce oil." Moratoriums on oil exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf and exclusion of Wilderness system lands from energy exploration might impede domestic production, Garrish fears. Tax incentives also encourage domestic production.

The U.S. must maintain a balanced, mixed resource base to maximize energy options and conserve use of petroleum, according to Garrish.

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CLOSED MONDAYS

Nuclear energy, coal and natural gas as well as solar, hydro and wind power can all be important contributions to energy needs. Another stragegy employed by DOE is encouraging conservation. "We classify conservation as a 'resource'," Garrish said. The department plans to increase its research into voluntary conservation efforts through technology—not mandatory conservation rules.

FREE BASIC BOATING COURSE OFFERED IN ISLIP

The Great South Bay Power Squadron, a member unit of the United States Power Squadrons, will conduct a free 10-week basic boating course starting on February 4th. Classes will be held from 8PM to 10PM every Tuesday evening in the Islip Junior High School Cafeteria, located on Montauk Highway in Islip. The classes are free, however, there will be a nominal charge for text book and navigation material.

This basic boating course will include U.S. Coast Guard Safety Regulations, rules of the road, aid to navigation, basic piloting and use of charts among other topics.

Upon passing the final examination, participants will receive safe boating certificates, which many marine insurance carriers honor for a reduction in premiums.

The United States Power Squadrons are dedicated to bringing about safe boating on our waters through education of all boaters in the safe handling and navigation of both sail and power boats.

For further information, please contact Bob Kirshbaum at 587-6739.

HIGH HILL STRIPER CLUB OPEN HOUSE

An Open House will be held for any surf fisherman interested in becoming a member of the High Hill Striper Club on Wednesday, February 19th, at 8:15 PM at the Garden City Bowling Alley, 987 Stewart Avenue, Garden City.

Guest speaker will be Fred Schwab, one of the contributing authors of "Surf Fishing with the Experts." Fred will speak about "How to use Plugs in the Surf," with a question and answer session afterwards. Bill Muller, Assistant to the Publisher of The Fisherman and co-editor of "Surf Fishing," will also be available to autograph your copy. If you have not yet bought a copy, he will have some available for sale at the Open House. A film will be shown and coffee and cake will be served.

The club welcomes both veteran surf fishermen and those new to the sport. High Hill is strictly a surf fishing club. The experienced fisherman will enjoy the recognition he will get from competing in the interclub contest. The beginner will be tutored by some of the finest surf fishermen on Long Island. Come to the Open House and join up.

Due to limited space, if you are planning to attend, please call Roger Martin at (516) 868-3817 any evening between 7 and 10 PM.

THE BOATING COURSE FOR EVERYONE

Whether you own your own boat or not, had years of sea experience or none at all, or simply want to learn more about boating, water safety, and seamanship, Brooklyn Power Squadron's Basic Boating Course is for you.

This spring, Brooklyn Power Squadron, which enters its 69th year as a leader of boating education in Brooklyn, will be offering basic boating classes to the public at two separate locations. Individuals who live or work in lower Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and western Nassau County will find the course locations convenient to their needs. Classes will begin at St. Francis College, located at 180 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, NY on January 30, 1986 at 7PM. The college is conveniently accessible by various forms of transportation. The course will also be taught at the Miramar Yacht Club, located at 3022 Emmons Avenue in Sheepshead Bay commencing February 18, 1986 at 7PM. Classes will be held on subsequent dates starting 7:30 PM at both locations. The instruction is FREE. There is a charge of $25 for course materials, books, charts and instruments.

The course has been offered by Brooklyn Power Squadron since its founding in 1918. In 12 sessions it covers basic piloting and coastal navigation, seamanship, rules of the road, handling in adverse and normal conditions, weather, sail, engine maintenance and a host of other practical topics. The course culminates in a sample "cruise" involving problems in piloting and navigation. Many of the exciting lessons will give you hands-on experience in marlinspike and operation of a marine radio. You will be instructed by a team of experienced and dedicated individuals using the most advanced course materials developed by the United States Power Squadrons.

This past year Brooklyn Power Squadron held the basic course during the summertime and enrollment was filled within a matter of days. Over the years Brooklyn Power Squadron has instructed virtually thousands of recreational mariners in basic boating skills.

Given the number of boating accidents each season, the Brooklyn Power Squadron has assumed an important role in the national effort to educate the boating public.

Brooklyn Power Squadron is a unit of the United States Power Squadrons (U.S.P.S.), a national private organization whose members are associated in a continuing self-study program. U.S.P.S. consists of more than 450 units or squadrons throughout the United States and in some distant places where Americans are congregated.

U.S.P.S. cooperates with agencies of government whose objectives are boating safety. It has been complimented by the President of the United States for its work in safe boating instruction and cooperative charting.

All men, women and youngsters who have reached the age of 12 are encouraged to take the basic course if they have an interest in boating. It is not necessary to own a boat. Indeed, many take the course before buying a boat to be prepared to use it properly. Those who successfully complete the course are awarded a certificate of completion and a patch.

For further information, those interested should contact Sal at (718) 338-3083 or call Commander Frowley at (212) 233-8282 during the business day.

ATLANTIS ANGLERS 1986 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Atlantis Anglers of Freeport will have two open meetings. One in February and one in March. We invite any fun-loving fisherman down for the night to see what we are all about. For information as to time and place, please call Jay Ebbets, (516) 766-4381 or Ralph Horowitz, (516) 889-0931, after 7PM.

HEMPSTEAD BAY POWER SQUADRON OFFERS TWO FREE BOATING COURSES

The Hempstead Bay Power Squadron will conduct a free course in boating at the following high schools, starting at 8PM:

North Valley Stream High School on February 4th; and Hewlett High School on March 5th.

The course is open to men, women and youngsters. Youngsters must be at least 13 years of age and must come with a parent or guardian. Boat ownership is not required for anyone.

The 10-week course will cover important phases of boating practice including rules and regulations, boat handling, trailering, water skiing and other subjects which lead to safe happy boating. The course will prove to be a very rewarding experience.

BOATING COURSE IN SEAFORD

Jones Beach Power Squadron, a non-profit boating organization, will offer a free sail and power boating course. This course is open to the public. Registration will take place from 7 to 9 PM on Wednesday, January 29th at the Seaford Junior High School, Washington Avenue in Seaford, New York.

You do not have to own a boat to take this 12-week course. Subjects taught are boat handling, seamanship and common emergency procedures; aids to navigation; rules of the road; compass and chart use; running lights and equipment; and trailering.

Again, registraiton for this course will take place at 7PM on Wednesday, January 29th at the Seaford Junior High School, Washington Avenue, Seaford, New York.

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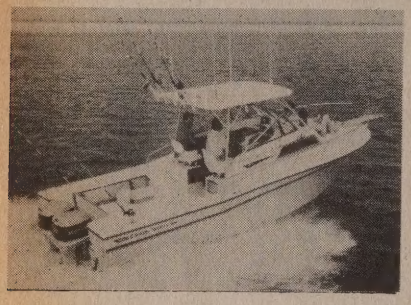
BOATS FOR ANGLERS:

GRADY-WHITE SAILFISH 25

by Pete Barrett



"Grady-White doesn't stand still," says company sales representative and regional manager Pete Fuhrman. "The better we get, the harder we try to get still better." For the fisherman/boater this philosophy means Grady-White boats offer exceptional value and quality as this North Carolina company continually adds more features to its line of boats.

The 25 Sailfish is a good example. Originally designed in 1978, this popular inshore/offshore boat has undergone three revisions and the latest model is a fisherman's dream come true. "We listen to people who buy our boats," Fuhrman says, "and we add new features that make our boats more fishable, more convenient to use and more comfortable to fish from. The new Sailfish represents dozens of good ideas from Grady-White owners and from our own factory design team who are fishermen themselves, headed up by our President, Eddie Smith."

With a wide beam, generous cabin and up to 198 gallons of fuel, the Sailfish is at home anywhere from the deep canyons, to the shark grounds, to the inshore bluefish hotspots and even in the coastal bays.

The hull is of the negative keel type with more depth at the forward entry of the hull rather than at the stern. This allows a lot of cabin space plus maximum bow flair to blow spray away from the passengers. The 20 degree vee is not extremely deep to cause the boat to lean while under hard throttle and it won't rock badly in a beam sea while trolling or drifting.

To keep the ride soft and comfortable Grady-White has designed a system of lifting strakes running lengthwise under the hull that lift the boat so it rides on a cushion of air. This design also gives excellent fuel economy and the hull will plane quickly without a heavy hand on the throttle.

The Sailfish comes standard with trim tabs to adjust for unbalanced loads, to minimize spray and to take full advantage of the forward sharp entry in rough seas.

Grady-White wrote the book on walkaround style boats and the Sailfish is typical of the planning and thought that helped make them so popular. The walkway is wide enough for fishermen with big feet in big boots to navigate without looking like a klutz.

Knowing that many owners are literally filling up every inch of space with electronics, the factory has redesigned the helm area to include a radio box just ahead of the controls and instrument panel and it will easily hold a VHF or CB, a small Loran or LCR depth finder. To port of the helm a wide space will hold graph recorder, radar and video scope. If the optional hardtop is ordered, a radio box can be installed just above eye level to take even more electronics gear.

All helm instruments are protected by a plexiglass cover, hinged for access. Wiring is not only color coded, but Grady-White provides a schematic along with a very complete owner's manual with details and tips on installing electronics, options, servicing, safety and care of the boat. Grady deserves applause for this thorough manual—it is well appreciated by every owner.

Raised about a foot above the cockpit, the helm deck offers excellent visibility. Helm chairs are mounted on top of tackle storage boxes. The starboard box is single compartment with a hinged door for storing large items like flying gaff heads, dock lines and fenders. The port box has two tackle drawers for lures, terminal tackle and bait rigging gear. Between the chairs is a 20 gallon recirculating live well.

The cabin has a lot of features without the feeling of being cramped. There's a short vee berth and a quarter berth to sleep three very comfortably for an overnight stay. An enclosed head can hold a Porti-Potti, a shower and a sink. Cabinets, alcohol stove and stainless sink with water pressure provide the comforts of home. Storage is built under the bunks. Cabin rod racks are standard. Among the options are hot water heater, dockside power, head with deck pump-out or Porta-Potti.

The cockpit is quite large due to the wide 9' 6" beam. Offshore anglers will be able to mount a fight chair if needed. Storage for 3 rods per side is provided under gun'ls on sturdy teak rack holders.

A pair of insulated fishboxes with overboard drains are built into the forward part of the cockpit where it joins the helm deck. The port box is 15 gallons, the starboard is a generous 57 gallons. The deck itself is non-skid with a pattern that is aggressive enough to grab the soles of deck shoes, but not difficult to clean.

At the transom is a fold-down splash well. On each side are teak doors to gain entry into the battery compartments, each with room inside to mount wash down pumps (one is standard on the Sailfish) and battery selector switches. Maintenance is easy because of Grady's forethought to add this wide access. A rubber gasketed port ahead of the transom gives access into the bilge pumps and for mounting transducers.

Atop each stern quarter is a molded in bait box with hinged lid. They are good places to store small lures, rigged baits on ice, terminal gear like shark leaders or larger lures for trolling tuna.

Popular options include the previously mentioned hardtop, small tower, complete canvas enclosures, outriggers, padded cockpit combings and a portable 98 quart Igloo cooler with padded cushion.

Close inspection of any Grade-White reveals quality work. The gel coat literally shines like a new silver dollar and there are no traces of the fiberglass matt showing through. The hull is thick layers of hand-laid fiberglass sheets—no chopped glass is used.

The Sailfish is available in three configurations: the 255 outboard which we just covered; the 254 stern drive and the 252 Sea Drive version. The basic layout of decks and cabin are identical but there is some variation of the stern treatment because of the power option.

SPECIFICATIONS

Length	25'4"
Beam	9'6"
Transom Height	25"
Hull Draft	19"
Hull Weight	4375 pounds
Maximum Horsepower	400
Fuel Capacity	
Standard	125 gallons
Optional	73 gallons

Manufactured by: Grady-White Boats, Post Office Box 1527, Greenville, North Carolina 27834, (919) 752-2111.

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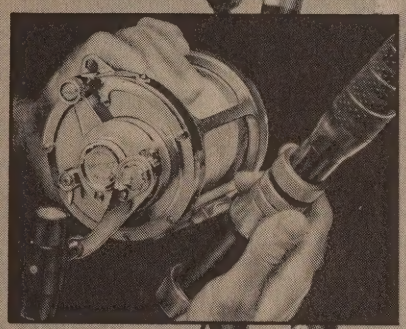

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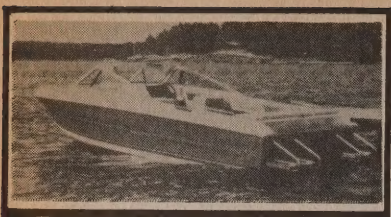

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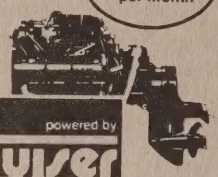

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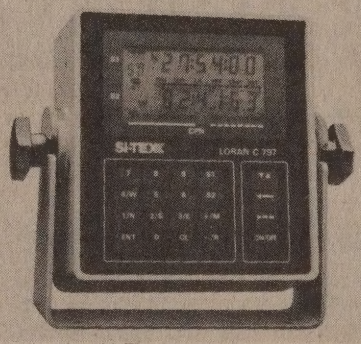
★ PRODUCT REVIEW ★

SI-TEX 797 LORAN

by Pete Barrett



A walk along the docks at any coastal marina will prove that the Si-Tex 797 is one of the hottest selling Loran receivers for inshore and offshore boaters. It's small size, reasonable price and long list of features make it irresistible to fishermen who want the benefits of Loran without the high price. Small boaters find space to install a 797 on top of center consoles or in restricted spaces at a helm station. Owners of larger craft are installing the 797 as a back-up to their main Loran.

When Si-Tex first introduced such a small Loran, it astounded everyone. The original model, known as the 787, was one of the first Lorans to break the $1000 price barrier. The newer 797 has been upgraded in features, yet the price has come down and it is not at all unusual to find this little workhorse selling at less than $800. It has been on the market since early 1984 and has an excellent record for reliability and good service.

The 797 will nestle into a space only 8 inches wide with bracket and mounting knobs in place. The chassis is aluminum with an epoxy pale gray finish that is scratch and corrosion resistant. The unit is sealed well enough to be water repellent, but under severe drenching it may leak. My 797 was mounted on a tower and despite being subjected to salt spray and several rainy trips offshore, it never gave any trouble.

The face of the 797 offers easy viewing and is covered with a soft plastic membrane. The upper half is clear for display of the TDs and other information while the lower half of the face panel holds the numeric key pads on the left and the operating pads on the right.

The viewing window displays 2 lines of information, one above the other. In its simplest use the 797 displays a pair of Loran secondaries or latitude/longitude coordinates, each on one line. For instance, the upper display line would read a 26,000 number; the bottom display line a 43,000 number.

Directly below each display, and printed right on the membrane, is a message line. The upper message line selects the Operation Modes to input the GRI, display the LOP numbers, the L/L display for latitude/longitude and three other more advanced operations. The lower display message line selects the functions of the Course Computer such as WP for waypoint installation, TTG for time to go, DIST for distance to go, HDG for heading, CMG for course made good, SPD for speed and VMG for velocity (speed) made good.

In order to make use of all the operations of the 797, Si-Tex uses 3 keys to move a lighted indicator bar, or dash, into position over the Operations Mode or Course Computer Function message lines. These function selection keys are located on the right side of the face panel just above the Power key. The upper function key moves the dash UP/DOWN from the Operations Model to the Computer Course function. There are LEFT and RIGHT movement function keys that move the dash back and forth along the message lines.

To turn the 797 on for the first time, press the ON key. Use the UP/DOWN arrow key to move the bar into the upper message line above the GRI position. Press the ENT key. A string of 9s will appear verifying the power up is OK. Enter the 4 digits for the GRI (9960), then ENT.

The Loran TDs will begin to appear in the display window and will rotate through all the secondaries for the chain every few seconds. When the top display reads a 26000 number (or other similar value), press the S1 key pad to stop the sequencing. Do the same thing with the bottom display by pressing the S2 key when the 43000 number (or other similar value) comes into display on the lower line.

In typical day to day operation, the GRI does not have to be re-entered, unless you travel outside of the range of the original GRI. Since the 797 will remember where it was the last time it was used, the next time it is turned on it will automatically begin to display

the correct secondaries. After the blinking lights indicating the CS and S/N alarms are off the 797 has "settled" and the numbers can be counted on to be accurate for navigating. Use the LEFT/RIGHT keys to move the bar over the LOP position on the top message line.

To enter the Course Computer functions, simply use the UP/DOWN key to move the bar into the lower message line. The 797 will display the speed and heading by using the LEFT and RIGHT keys to move the bar into position over the HDG and SPD functions on the lower message line.

Enter a waypoint by using the LEFT arrow key to move the bar over the WP position on the lower message line. Use the keyboard numbers to punch in the 12 numbers that correspond to the pair of secondaries you want to navigate to.

If you want to store this waypoint for future use, press the + M key, then two digits to assign the waypoint its number. As an example, to enter a location near the Hudson Canyon, move the bar directly over the WP function, then enter 2622543100, + M, 03. In this instance, I've assigned waypoint #03 to an area that corresponds to the TDs of 26225/43100.

Use the RIGHT key to move the bar over the HDG position and the lower display will show the compass heading to that waypoint. The RIGHT/LEFT keys can be used to move back and forth along the message line to determine the speed, distance and time to go to the destination.

To recall a waypoint, move the bar over WP, press the -R key and the two digits of the waypoint number. The TDs for the waypoint will be displayed in the window. Move the bar into any of the Course Computer functions to determine the heading and other information about the waypoint. Cross track error is displayed in the upper display line.

The Si-Tex 797 can sequence waypoints, determine and show cross track error while navigating, compensate for compass deviation, convert LOPs to Lat/long, signal arrival at a destination and perform anchor watch duties. For a complete rundown of the functions and operation of this Loran C receiver you should visit a dealer who has a unit on display.

The Si-Tex is small in size, but big on features; low in price but high on reliability.

SPECIFICATIONS

Dimensions (with bracket):
- Height . . . . . 7.2 inches
- Width . . . . . 8 inches
- Depth . . . . . 3.7 inches

Weight . . . . . 3 pounds
Settling Time . . . . . 3 minutes
Notch Filters (automatic) 3
Power . . . . . 11-15V, .5A, neg. ground
Waypoint Memory 50

Manufactured by: Si-Tex Marine Electronics, Post Office Box 6700, Clearwater, Florida 33518, (813) 535-4681.

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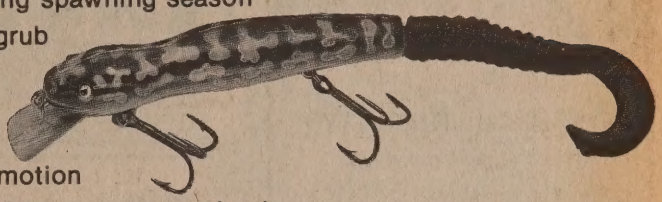

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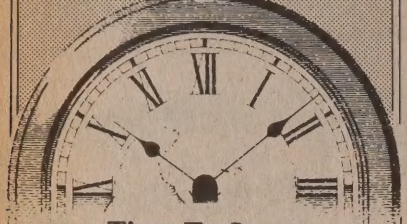

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THE TACKLE DOCTOR

by Russ Wilson

Dear Doc,

Could you please advise me of a local reel repair shop that will service and repair a Garcia reel. I spoke to the Garcia Rep and all he could suggest is to mail the reel to Garcia in New Jersey for service. I have a reliable shop that does my Penn and Daiwa reels, but they will not service Garcia products. *E.D. Josephson.*

Dear Mr. Josephson:

Why not ship the reel directly to the Garcia Corp. They have a good service department, offer speedy service with a quick turnaround policy and know what makes their products tick. There are hundreds of small reel repair shops situated throughout the Atlantic Seaboard and most do good work as well as offer a guarantee on their services for a limited amount of time. You might check the local phone book for most of the reel mechanics who advertise either in the yellow pages or under the white pages.

The address for Garcia Corp. is: ABU-Garcia, Inc., 21 Law Drive, Fairfield, NJ 07006. Make sure to address your shipment to the Service Department and enclose a return address and when possible, a phone number.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I fished out a 7 foot, two piece fishing pole from the ocean. I cannot separate the pole; tried kerosene and oil mixture with cotton for two weeks.

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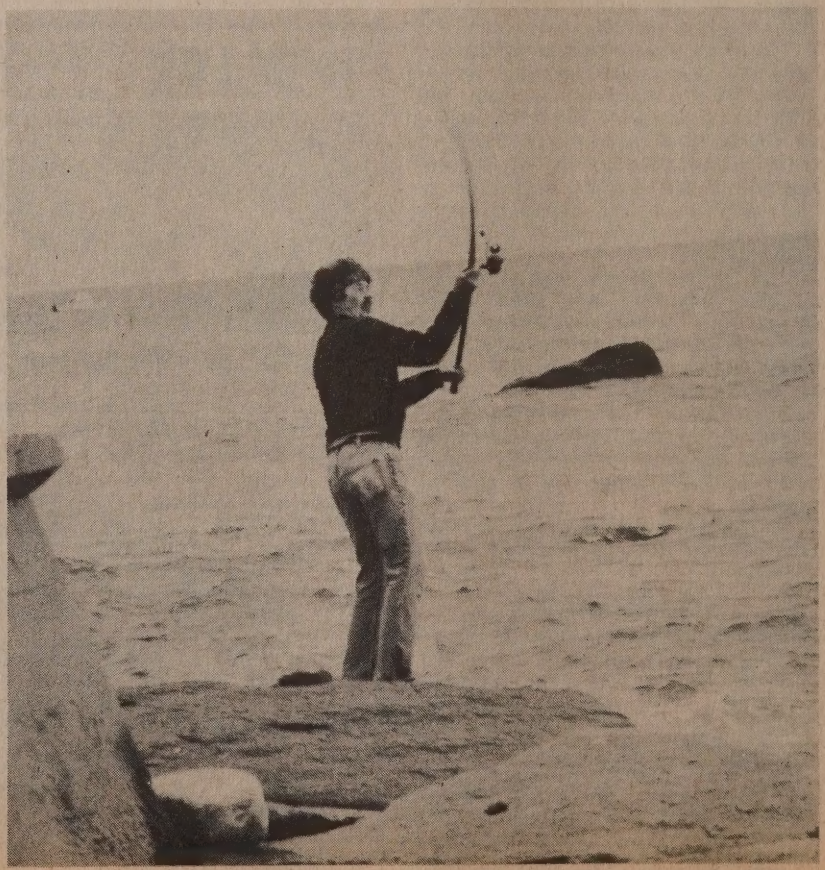

Recommended weight ranges provide optimum performance but allow for plenty of variation.

I tried soaking it and it didn't help. I am asking you for help! Have you a solution? *Andy Erdely.*

Dear Andy,

You might try soaking the ferrule with Break Free. We've used it in the past and found it will cause some loosening of the corrosion that is keeping the two parts connected. If that does not work, and it may not, why not use the rod as a one piece model. Unless you are going to transport the rod there is no reason why it can't be used as a one-piecer.

You can also try turning the male section with pliers. Use a barrier of rubber or cloth between the rod and pliers so you do not harm the rod and gently turn the ferrule first one way and then the other. By gradually working the parts back and forth you may cause the parts to loosen without damaging the ferrules. This applies only to metal ferrules—not the fiberglass or graphite ferrules.

We also had suggestions from readers saying that Coca-Cola will liquify the corrosion and cause the ferrule to loosen, but to date, we have not tried this solution. It could work, for Coca-Cola does remove corrosion from guides and other metal items that are exposed to saltwater environment.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I received a beautiful 8 foot spinning rod for Christmas and I don't want to ruin it by using it incorrectly. The rod is marked "use with lines of 10 to 20 lb. test and lures of 1 to 2½ ounces."

What I'd like to know is, can I use this rod to cast lures that weigh less than 1 oz. or more than the recommended 2½ ounces? And, can I do it without damaging the rod?

Julius Saltzman.

Dear Julius,

Those ratings are issued by the rod manufacturer as a guideline. What they actually mean is the rod will perform best when used within the limits suggested by the company that built the rod. You can go lighter or heavier (within reason) and still not harm the rod. That does not mean, however, that you can cast a 10 oz. diamond jig or a 1/4 oz. leadhead and get maximum performance from the rod.

We have several different rods that carry a recommended range and use them for various situations where we must exceed the recommended weight range in order to present a lure that will catch fish. By the same token, we've had instances when it was necessary to use a mini-weight lure to take smaller fish or to "match the hatch" when larger game fish were feeding on miniscule bait fish or other small food items.

You certainly could use a 1/2 or 5/8 ounce lure on the light end and a 3 or 4 ounce metal at the other extreme without damaging your new fishing rod.

It's named E-Z 7 for good reasons.

The SI-TEX EZ-7 Loran C receiver is easy on your budget. Easy to use. It's also easy to enter any number of waypoints. Easy to store positions in the 9 instant-position memory. And easy to steer back to those positions by the most direct course. Plus, there's an easy-to-use ComPuNav course computer which gives you all kinds of easy-to-read navigation data. And the EZ-7 is very easy on space in your boat.

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CONVENTIONAL BOAT ROD

by George Sanderson

I still remember my first saltwater fishing rod. It was a Christmas present from a good friend of the family. My brother and I called him uncle, but he was not really related. My dad did a lot of fishing with him and I went once in awhile. But in my youth I had a lot of other interests—plus the motion of the sea had gotten the best of me several times. I can still see my dad's wooden 26 footer. It had an inboard flathead six cylinder motor and loads of fishing room. They always caught boxes of fish. The rods they used were almost exactly like my Christmas present: 5 to 5½ foot solid glass boat poles. They were two piece (ferruled at the reel seat) and had wooden butts. The reels were (what else but) Penn Squidders. At least 20 lb. test line was the rule of the day; anything less was considered too light. Of course, fish were more plentiful back then, but it still amazes me how people could catch fish on rods of this type.

Rods in this class make for a highly versatile inshore tool.

Most of those old solid glass antiques have found their way into the attic, garage, basement, or trash bin, never to feel the spray of saltwater again. The transition to hollow glass, graphite, etc., was easy—for most people.

I started with a Lamiglas blank; S glass as a matter of fact. S glass is a high modulus glass, lighter and more sensitive than regular fiberglass. It's also a little more expensive. I use S glass when a little more sensitivity is needed, but the added expense of graphite is not justified. I figured that going from solid glass to S glass would be a day to night situation already, while graphite might be too much to take.

The blank number is SMB 84 2F. If you want to save some money, try it (it's regular fiberglass as opposed to the S glass). The blank was custom cut from the tip until a No. 9 tiptop fit snugly. After cutting the tip, measure off six feet from the tip towards the butt. Make your butt cut at this point. Six feet is a good length for a rod of this type: long enough to fight a fish and still short enough to use under crowded conditions.

Most boat rods have a long butt grip, usually anywhere from 10 to 14 inches. I decided to go with a 10 inch grip to make the rod a little lighter. I also wanted my dad to be able to use it with bucktails, not just top and bottom rigs. If you have read many of my custom rod articles, you probably already know my choice for a reel seat. The Fuji FPS 20 (or the size 20 with trigger) is the way to go. A four inch foregrip finishes off the handle assembly.

I built this rod just before the Fuji Hardaloy guides became popular. I used their older model casting guides, but I'd go with the Hardaloy casting guides if I were building this rod today. See the diagrams for size and spacing. Use the matching tiptop, size 9.

This conventional boat rod represents a lot more than a replacement for a solid glass rod. It is a great all around type of boat pole. It is long and light enough to cast and work bucktails, yet retains enough power for bottom fishing. The range of line (from 10 to 17 lb. test) makes it even more versatile.

If you want to know if my dad liked his present, just take a look down in his basement. Over in the corner—that's right, back over by that pile of scrap wood. Three solid glass boat rods, rods that will never see the saltwater again.

I'd probably use this rod exclusively for some type of inshore, river and bay fishing where overall length is not a critical factor. The rather short length of 5½ feet is not long enogh for party boat situations, but it is excellent when fishing from a small to mid size boat where you are not fighting a crowd and there is little danger of tangling another angler's line.

It is also very easy to stow the 5½ footer in a passenger auto trunk or in the boat when at sea.

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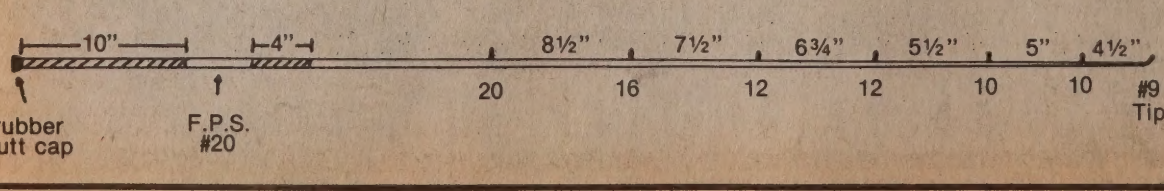

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★ FISHERMAN TRAVEL LOG ★

VISITING SANTEE COOPER COUNTRY

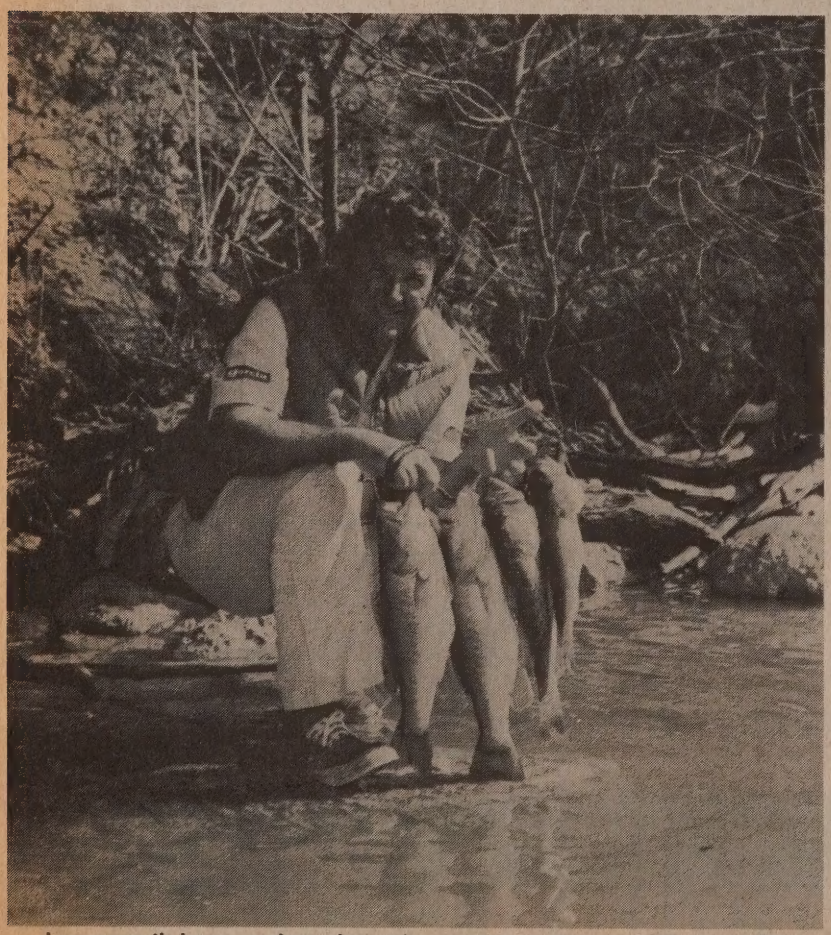
by Russ Wilson

Four in the morning is not one of our favorite hours. Seems as we get older we are less inclined to leave a warm bed to chase some fish that probably doesn't like starting his (or her) day that early either. But, being an outdoor reporter does have its drawbacks. In this instance, it was an early flight out of Newark Airport, followed by several days of striped bass fishing and bobwhite quail hunting in South Carolina's famous Santee Cooper Country.

As we've often said, being an outdoor writer can be a dirty job, but someone has to do it and since we've been hitting the typewriter keys for a dozen years or so, it might as well be us.

At any rate, a baker's dozen outdoor scribes (members of the New York Metropolitan Outdoor Writers Association) met at the airport, swapped some lies, checked our shotguns and fishing rods through as baggage and impatiently waited for the flight to depart.

We were scheduled to fly via Eastern Airlines to Atlanta, Georgia, connect with another flight to Charleston, South Carolina and meet with our hosts, Santee Cooper Country.



Largemouth bass anglers also enjoy superb fishing on both lakes. This stringer was taken from Lake Marion. Santee Cooper Country photo credit.

Right on schedule Cal Harrelson and Calvin Baynard from Santee Cooper Country were waiting when we walked up the ramp to where our baggage was supposed to be waiting. For once we came up winners. All of the baggage, guns and fishing rods were intact and waiting for us at the baggage claim counter. Harrelson and Baynard drove to Charleston in two cargo type vans, both of which could have transported a small regiment of fully clothed and equipped military personnel. It was immediately obvious that neither of them had been indoctrinated as to the manner in which outdoor writers travel. Each writer, as is the norm, carried about four times as much gear as necessary and had twice as many rods and reels as he could use in a month of serious fishing.

Cal Harrelson suggested a quick stop at one of the restaurants before driving to our first night's lodging. The place specialized in deep fried catfish and catfish stew, and we might add they did prepare catfish to perfection. Being a light eater, we could take only a half dozen fried cats and a huge bowl of catfish stew before pushing away from the table. There is no excuse for this poor showing except that we had a breakfast before boarding our Eastern flight at Newark and a dinner while aboard the flight to Atlanta. Between Atlanta and Charleston we partook of some liquid refreshment and a few small bags of cashews which probably kept us from suffering malnutrition during the 40 minute flight.

Next stop was the Hickory Creek Quail Club owned and managed by one Coot Wooten, a character straight from one of Havilah Babcock's yarns and a truly gracious host. Unfortunately, Coot also knows how to shoot quail and how to raise Brittanys that listen to commands.

After tucking away a couple pounds of venison, a peck of carrots and potatoes and some collard greens, we found just enough room for a small wedge of pie and a couple gallons of hot coffee. Sleep came easy after such a tiring day and by ten, we were dreaming of the morning's quail hunt.

Coot picked us up at the Hickory Creek Quail Club Lodge and ferried us

to the camp kitchen where we again had to prove that it pays to be a light eater. We quit after only one small stack of eggs and country sausage and grabbed our 20 gauge as Coot and Jim Campbell loaded gear, dogs and extra shotgun shells into the woods buggy.

These wood vehicles are something else. Each is equipped with a jump seat, plus a dog coop that hangs off the back and will hold two dogs comfortably. The four wheel drive is a necessity when negotiating muddy woods roads and off-road terrain.

We got off to an early start, at least Coot thought we did. Back home in Jersey we usually are in the woods by daylight, but when hunting South Carolina where everyone has a rather laid back approach to everything, a nine o'clock start was considered very good. His answer when questioned about the late start was that the dew lays heavy during early morning and does not allow the dogs to smell quail as easily as they do when the ground has had a chance to dry out.

During the all too brief morning hunt we must have flown at least 15 covies of quail and each had a dozen or more birds that were wild as any we've hunted at home. Some of them did end up in Coot's game pouch, but it was more likely a case of dying from laughter than from being shot.

Our partner Jim Campbell did manage to bust a few birds cleanly but even he, who is an expert wingshot, had his moments when bird and scattershot could not meet no matter how hard Jim tried to convince us they were flying away with their hearts shot out.

In the afternoon, we hunted Spring Grove Shooting Preserve with a mild mannered fellow aptly named Bubba, and enjoyed a repeat of the morning hunt. Bubba, who resembles a middle linebacker, but is just a little larger, worked a pair of Brittanys that may well be the finest quail dogs this reporter has ever seen.

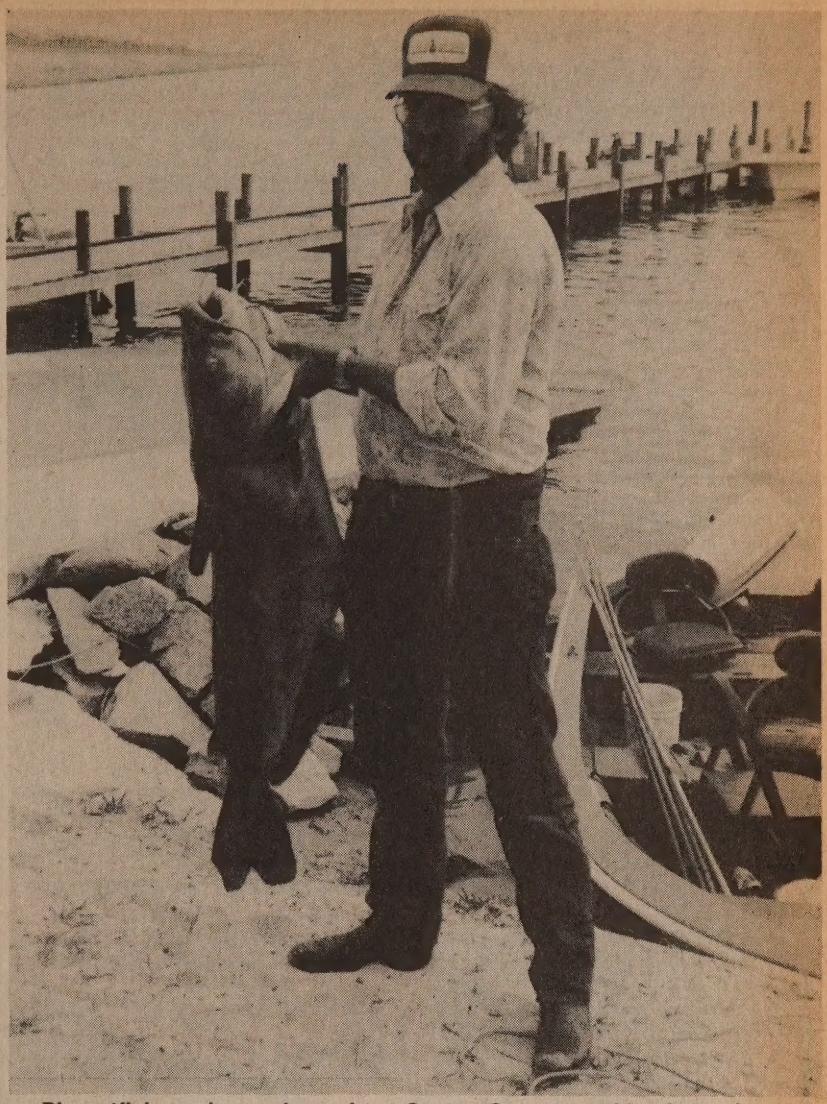
Ed Feldman of Albany, New York and Gene Seraphine of Long Island were hunting with us in the afternoon and between the three of us we had 49 quail and more than likely missed twice that amount. Gene, it seemed before each shot, would get a tad of encouragement from Bubba who would shout to him "kill that bird" and Gene would promptly miss.

Seraphine did get his revenge, however. After enduring the words of advice on two covey rises, Seraphine moved off by himself and began to improve his shooting average dramatically.

Feldman, on the other hand, needed no encouragement. That man has no right being a writer, for he is too good a shot and is equally at home with a fishing rod, as we were to learn the next day.

After our fiasco at the quail hunts we were in serious need of nourishment. A stop at one of the diners located along the shore of Lake Marion

(Continued on next page.)



Big catfish are in good supply at Santee Cooper as this photo shows. Photo credit to Santee Cooper Country.

Striped bass fishermen who are used to fishing days on end to catch a couple of stripers will be delighted with the action at Santee Cooper's Lake Marion and Lake Moultrie. Santee Cooper Country photo credit.

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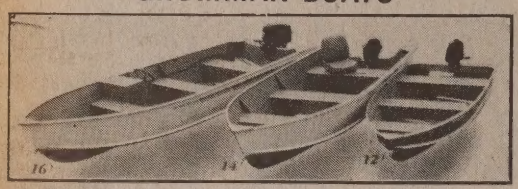

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(the upper lake and much smaller than the lower Lake Moultrie) produced a platter of golden southern fried chicken that we quickly devoured before others in the group could blink an eye.

Our host Cal Harrelson again proved his ability to handle out-of-state writers by giving us the grand tour of Santee Cooper Country's scenery before getting us safely stowed at Clark's Quality Inn in Santee. After showering it seemed a good idea to check out the restaurant. Again, a platter of fried chicken complete with all the trimmings looked like a good choice for a half-starved writer and the chef at Clark's outdid himself to prove we had made a correct choice.

The following morning we had an appointment to meet striped bass guide Truman Lyons, who was to escort Lee Wulff, Ed Feldman, Jim Campbell and yours truly to the Lake Moultrie home of the stripers. Lyon is one of those guides who does not do it for his customers. Lyon supplies all the necessary tackle, lures or bait and takes his charter parties to the fish. From that point on, it is up to the individual.

To say conditions were less than ideal is the understatement of the year. Winds whistled across the lake causing waves that were as large as those seen when ocean fishing; constant rainfall made us look more like drowned rats than fishermen and to add to our misery we had to fish on the drift which meant the boat was constantly bobbing like a cork.

On a brighter note, however, we did catch a lot of striped bass. Our morning's catch was somewhere around 30 and all were released after posing for photos.

Truman suggested a short lunch break at one of his favorite eateries. Not to appear eager, we said we could probably handle something light for lunch. Little did he know that his charter party of writers were actually barbarians who had not eaten for several hours. After polishing off a platter of chopped steak, and a huge mound of mashed potatoes and lima beans, we had just enough room for a slab of cheeseake and some hot coffee.

We staggered back to Lyon's 20 foot Shamrock, donned raingear, grabbed a couple of plug casting rods, some Sassy Shads and waddled onto the boat. The afternoon's fishing was even better than the morning as linesiders of 3 to 9 pounds jumped all over those half ounce Sassy Shads. No one kept actual count of our catch, but it must have been pretty good, for Truman had a grin on his face that told the story.

Our tight schedule included a quick dinner at one of the area's foremost steak houses and after cleaning up as best we could, the entire group, including Truman's lovely wife, jumped into the family auto for the half hour drive. Being well fed from our long winded lunch, we ordered light. A 24 ounce sirloin, baked potato and two

bowls of salad from the salad bar was enough to hold us until the following morning.

We had a deer hunt complete with hounds planned for the next morning and everyone in the group was looking forward to hunting with dogs since it is not practiced in the northern states. But, with rain coming down in solid sheets and most of the lowlands flooded, the hunt had to be cancelled. Our host Cal arranged a tour of plantation houses in and around the Santee Cooper area and gave us a firsthand look at how the South may have been during that brief time in history. It was not deer hunting, but no one seemed to mind and most of the group was busy snapping photos of the gracious homes and surrounding lands.

A special "striped bass fry" put on by Cholly Clark rounded out our final day and we cannot think of a better way to end a trip where friendship and sport are foremost and the taking of fish or game secondary. The entire group assembled at Clark's and the chef just kept bringing hot plates of striped bass fillets, French fried potatoes, cold slaw and hush puppies.

It was an overstuffed group of outdoor scribes who said goodbye to South Carolina hospitality at the Charleston Airport.

Anyone can enjoy this superb country. There are hundreds of fish camps, lodges, shooting preserves, motels and campgrounds where tourists can rent or lease equipment by day, week or month at reasonable prices. And, as we discovered, more than 30 years ago, everyone is extremely pleasant to out-of-staters. There is no doubt that Southern hospitality lives on in Santee Cooper Country.

Visitors who plan to drive to Santee Cooper Country should allow at least 12 hours from the Metropolitan Area and more if trailering a boat or camper. We've made the drive south in the past and recommend anyone contemplating it follow the speed limits to the letter. Southern hospitality does not extend to the police and speeders will most assuredly receive a summons. This we know from experience!

Santee Cooper Country visitors may also elect to fly as did our group. Eastern Airlines has daily service from Newark and other major Metropolitan airports at very reasonable prices. You will make a connection at Atlanta Airport and then on to the Charleston Airport where you can rent a car or be picked up by one of the resort services.

Coot Wooten has a regular pick-up and return service that he offers quail hunters who stay at the Hickory Creek Quail Club and some of the fishing camp operators also offer a similar package deal.

Santee Cooper Counties Promotion Commission carries the responsibiltiy of promoting tourism and recreation in the five counties surrounding Santee Cooper Lakes and the "Vacation Guide" covers the entire spectrum of fishing, hunting, camping and other points of interest for vacationers.

The Vacation Guide also lists fishing resorts, boats, docks, motels, restaurants, guide services and it is free for the asking. To receive a "Vacation Guide" write Santee Cooper Country, P.O. Drawer 40, Santee, SC 29142 or call them direct at (803) 854-2131 and request the Vacation Guide or these other brochures which are also available: Fishing in Santee Cooper Country; Hunting in Santee Cooper Country; Points of Interest in Santee Cooper Country.

Cal Harrelson proved to be a very good source of information and went out of his way to ensure our group had an opportunity to enjoy a little of everything Santee Cooper Country has to offer and I am sure he will show the same sincere interest to anyone who requests information or literature concerning Santee Cooper's many possibilities.

You might address inquiries to his attention, but due to time limitations, I can't guarantee he will always be in the office to handle calls. As we discovered on our final day, Harrelson is also a fisherman/hunter and you all know how reliable that kind of person can be when the fish are running or the hunting season is open.

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LORAD

HUDSON RIVER STRIPED BASS TAGGING RESULTS

by John Waldman & Dennis Dunning

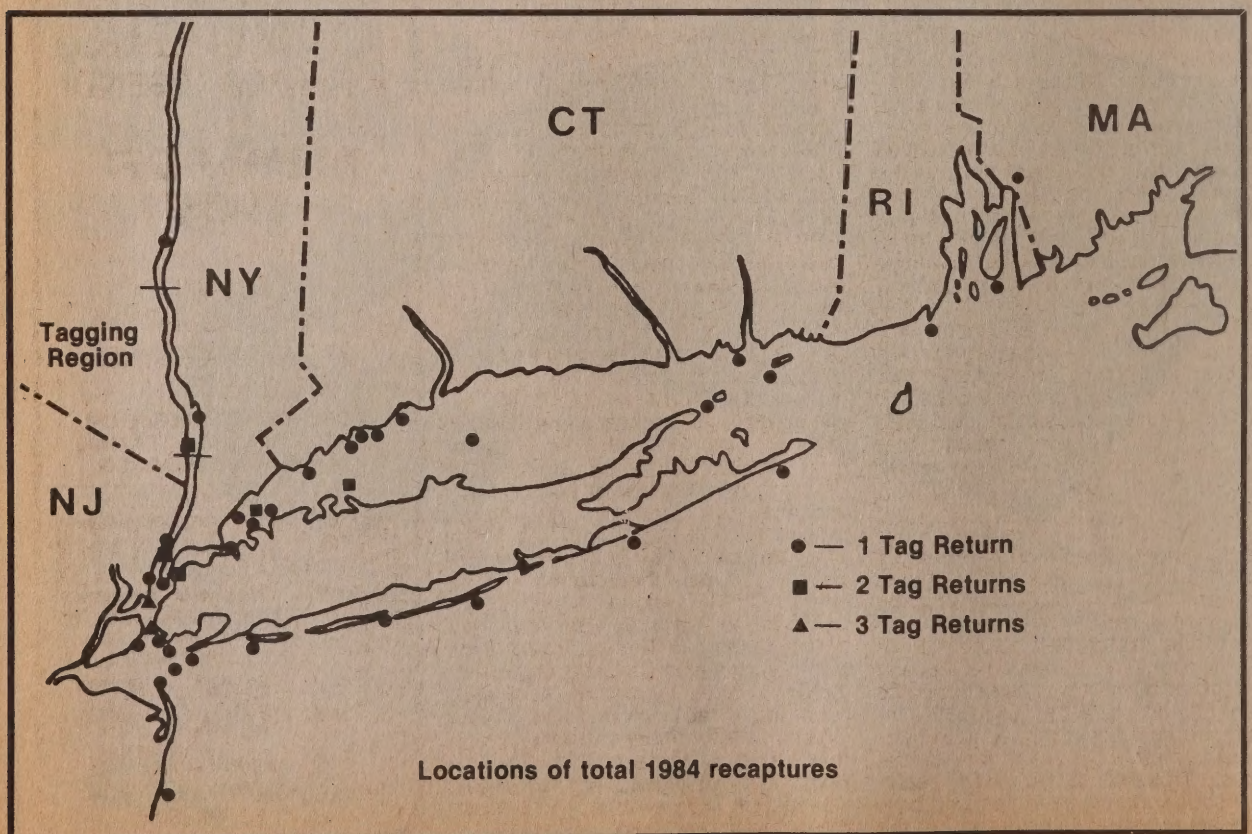
The Hudson River Foundation's striper tagging program is already yielding a plethora of valuable data.

The Hudson River Foundation for Science and Environmental Research (HRF) coordinated a program in 1984 to study Hudson River striped bass migration patterns and the retention of two fish tag types.

Researchers tagged and released 736 striped bass in the Hudson River between April-June, 1984. Tagging was performed between Piermont and Newburgh. All fish tagged were 300mm (11.8") or larger in total length and ranged up to 42". The great majority, however, fell between about 12-24 inches. Striped bass were double tagged with an anchor tag (the same style tag used by Texas Instruments, Inc. in the 1970s in the Hudson River striped bass tagging program) inserted just below the second dorsal fin, and with an internal anchor-external streamer tag placed in a small incision in the fish's belly between the pelvic fins and the vent. The internal anchor tag was being tested for the first time on striped bass. Double tagging individual fish allows for estimation of tag loss rates, an important consideration in calculating fish population size.

Rewards were offered for tag returns. Fish were marked with tags bearing reward values of either $5 to $1000 or $10 to $1000. When a tag was returned, the HRF sent a check for the minimum value of the reward along with a questionnaire to the respondent. Once the fisherman returned the completed questionnaire to HRF, his name was entered into a drawing for nine prizes of up to $1000, once for each tag returned.

By February, 1985, the HRF had received tags or recapture information from 53 of the 736 striped bass tagged and released in 1984. These returns showed that the internal anchor tag provided a much lower loss rate, by far the best ever reported for a striped bass tagging study. Of returns from 50 originally double tagged striped bass, only one had shed the internal anchor tag (2 percent loss rate) compared with 29 that had lost the anchor tag (58 percent loss rate). The difference in retention is probably due to the nature of the tag's holdfasts. The holdfast of an anchor tag is short and narrow to allow it to be inserted with a special gun. The surface area of the holdfast of a hand inserted internal anchor tag is much larger and once placed in the abdominal cavity, becomes strongly attached as the incision heals around the tag. The low loss rate of the internal anchor tags indicates that they should provide returns for more than a single year following attach-



Locations of total 1984 recaptures

ment.

Returns were few during the spring and early summer of 1984, most occurring in September through November. Of the recaptures, two were made north of the tagging region, three within it, and the remainder to the south or out of the Hudson River. Perhaps partly because of the intensive fishery that occurs there, the majority of returns originated from New York Harbor and Long Island Sound.

Many fish were captured at well known striped bass fishing locations. Summer returns came from places such as Turtle Cove in Eastchester Bay, Little Neck Bay, the Rockaways, several Connecticut reefs and shoreline points, and Plum Gut. Locations of autumn recaptures included Newport and Pt. Judith, Rhode Island, far to the east; well known staging areas such as Middle Ground Light, the Eaton's Neck Triangle, and Execution Lighthouse offshore in Long Island Sound; and the Tin Can Grounds, Liberty Island, Battery Park, the East River bridges and the west 125th Street sewer outfall, near or in New York City. The recapture of a tagged striped bass in the Mohawk River provides evidence that migratory fish may travel beyond the Troy Dam by passing through its navigational lock.

The pattern of tag returns was similar to the results of the large Texas Instruments, Inc. tagging efforts of the 1970s. In general there is a dispersal of striped bass out of the Hudson River in spring into a region extending from Sandy Hook, NJ to both shores of Long Island and the Connecticut coastline. A smaller portion of Hudson River striped bass travel further, as far as Rhode Island, Massachusetts and central New Jersey. There is a return migration towards the river in autumn and early winter. Some portion of the Hudson stock remains in the river through the summer. These results describe the movements of the length classes actually tagged, other studies have indicated that larger fish may winter outside the Hudson River and enter it only to spawn in the spring.

There is some evidence that Hudson River striped bass may, since at least the 1970s, be traveling further from the river than in earlier decades. A large tagging study conducted from 1948 to 1952 provided returns that suggested that the Hudson River striped bass stock rarely migrated beyond about Fairfield, CT and Northport, NY in Long Island Sound, nor past Jones Beach on Long Island's south shore. If true, this range appears to have been significantly exceeded in recent times and may be related to the current abundance of the Hudson River stock. The Hudson River has been closed to commercial fishing since 1976 because PCB contamination levels in striped bass have exceeded federal government guidelines. This, combined with health advisories against eating striped bass appear to have contributed to the recent build-up of the Hudson River striped bass population.

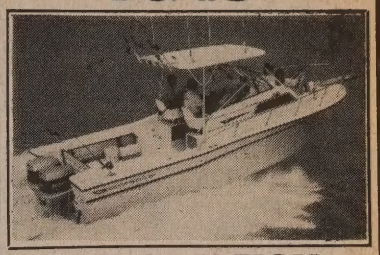
Commercial net gear captures were few, the two returns of this type originating from a Hudson River shad fisherman. Several of the respondents who recaptured tagged fish through angling reported that they are commercial hook and line fishermen. One hook and line fisherman actually returned tags from five striped bass, almost 10 percent of all the returns made. This angler, who fishes the Upper and Lower New York Harbors, wrote that he has observed "...a tremendous increase in the number of striped bass in the past five years," a reflection of the current high level of the Hudson stock. Juvenile indices for the Hudson River striped bass population have been near or above average seven of the past nine years.

Although there were exceptions, such as the fisherman who caught a striper while flounder fishing at Mastic Beach, the study confirmed what is generally known: striped bass are caught primarily by fishermen who invest a considerable amount of time fishing for striped bass. Of the fishermen who returned tags the majority fish frequently, averaging over 90 days per year, with almost three-fourths of that effort devoted towards striped bass. The data also indicated that almost 60 percent of the recaptured striped bass were released unharmed.

On February 28, 1985 a drawing was held at the HRF offices in which nine prizes were awarded to eligible fishermen. The five winners of the $100 rewards were Henry Griffith, Brooklyn, NY; Robert Gabbrielson, Nyack, NY; Michael Corbisero, Sands Point, NY; Jay Andrighetti, Greenwich, CT; and John Zakrewski, Troy, NY. $500 prizes were awarded to Walter Dimek, Bayonne, NJ and John Sullivan, South Hempstead, NY. The winners of the two $1000 rewards were Alberto Ramirez, New York, NY and Ronald Young, Lincroft, NJ.

Plans are now being made for another study to begin in mid-November of this year, with tagging continuing through spring, 1986. In the meantime, the HRF is still recovering tags from last year's tagging and will conduct another drawing for rewards of up to $1000 in February, 1986 for all eligible tags received since March, 1985. Be sure to check your stripers for tags. Because of the almost 100 percent retention rate of the internal anchor tags, there are still many tagged fish at large from the 1984 program, with returns continuing to be received from that tagging. If you catch an HRF tagged striped bass, whether you intend to keep it or not, cut off the tag or tags and record all pertinent information including date, location, total length of fish and condition of tag insertion sites. If you would like a summary of the results of this program, write to John Waldman, Staff Biologist, Hudson River Foundation, Suite 1901, 122 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10168.

GW
GRADY-WHITE BOATS



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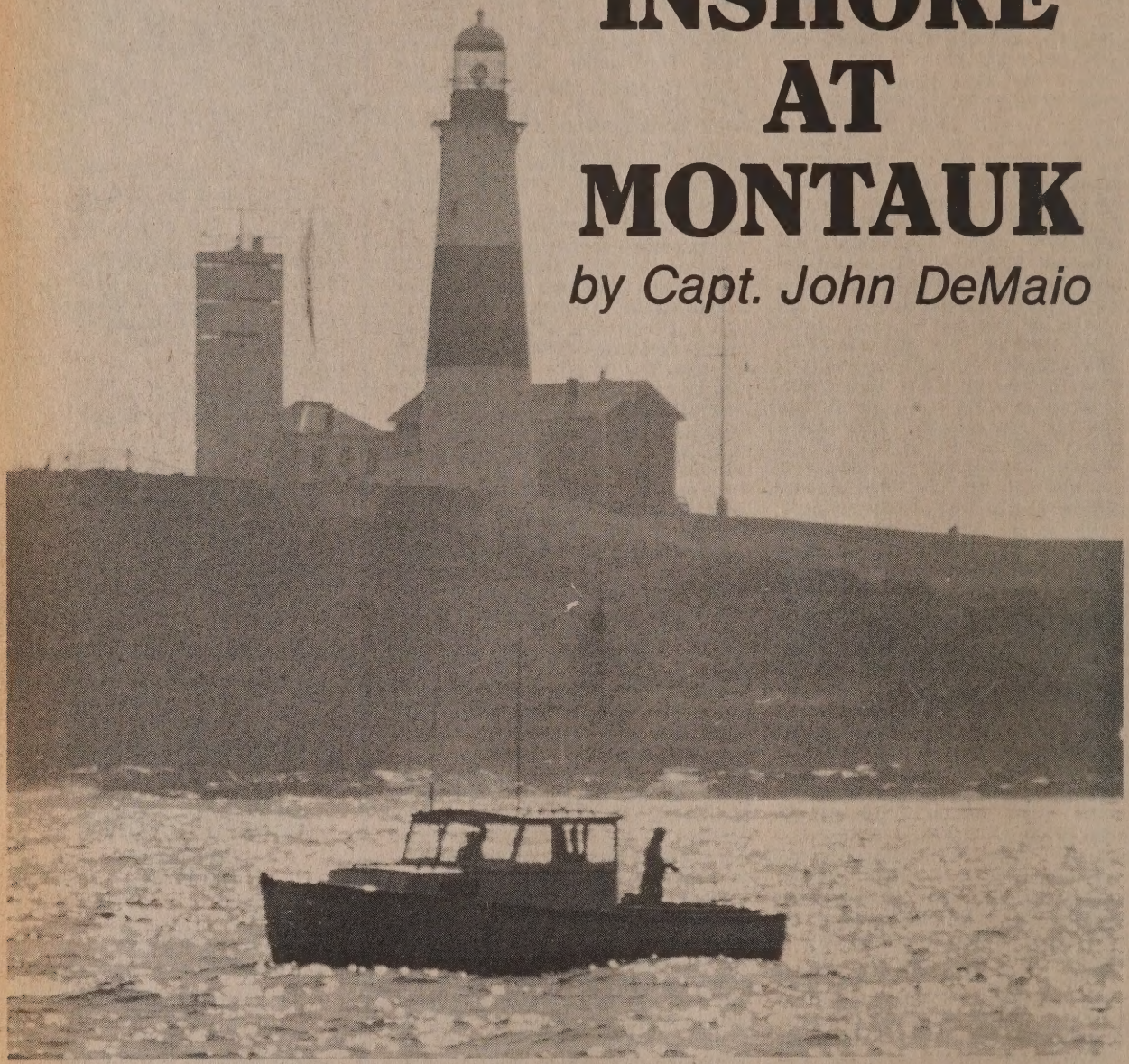
INSHORE AT MONTAUK

by Capt. John DeMaio



Some years back, a man with the wisdom of many years, told me that as I grew older, the passing of time would accelerate with frightening rapidity. Ain't it the truth! The 1985 season zipped by with a speed that would have impressed Buck Rogers. Following are the general fishing conditions as I draw from my log. Here is 1985 as I saw it.

Weather is an important factor in fishing, so the first thought about the spring fishing was the fair weather. As an example, in 1984 I only fished 8 days during the month of March. In 1985, I managed 16 days. The cod-fishing was good to fantastic by month's end. High hook score came on March 30 with 116 codfish. The last week of March and the first week of April gave my fares a chance at some fantastic codfishing in local shallow waters. Six days in a row saw a total of 467 cod come aboard the old "Vivienne." The cod were good size school fish and the total weight must have been around 5,000 pounds.

April weather continued good and allowed for 23 days of fishing. The numbers were down but bigger fish in deeper water made the difference. Codfish up to 61 lbs. were hauled aboard in April, including a 54 lb. fish for Father McKay of Smithtown (I hope I earned a place in heaven). By the numbers, 615 were caught in April. Or, approximately 26.7 cod per trip. That's a good average that sounds even better taking into consideration that the weather, although fishable, was not always the best.

May's fishing slowly gave way to flounder even though cod were available. As late as May 28, I show a catch of 30 cod; three were 30 lbers., plus two big pollock and 10 bluefish. All of last year's codfishing was done on the old Vivienne. The new boat offers twice the speed as before, so I can now make the distant run to many areas in far less time. With this added speed I expect for fish for cod right through May and June. This is

particularly important for those anglers who enjoy codfishing under fair weather conditions.

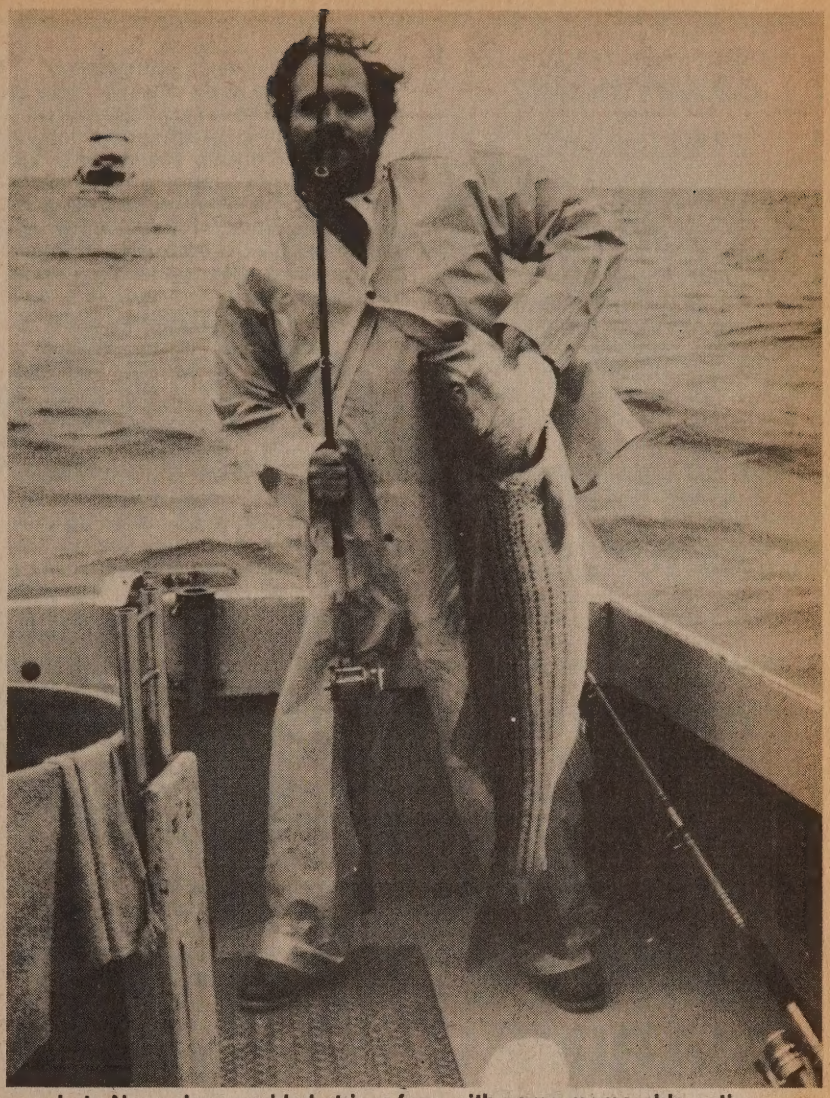
Spring flounder fishing was a big disappointment. Not only were they down in numbers but also in size. There were a couple of bright spots and the season was not to be considered a waste but from where I saw it it could have been better. Perhaps my attitude reflects my preference for big fish, not numbers. Loading up on a bushel of fish, the size you normally find to the west, is not my idea of flounder fishing. I would prefer a dozen big flatfish over a mess of pan size fish.

My last trip on the old Vivienne was June 13 and showed six cod and one bushel of flounder. After an exchange of boats, my next trip and maiden voyage on the new boat was June 22. My new vessel saw a mixed bag come over the shiny new stainless rails (20 cod, 1 bluefish and 6 fluke).

The boat needed to be outfitted to my particular fishing needs. While working at the dock, reports, more like rumors, began to trickle in about weakfish at Shagwong. Sure enough, June 25 gave up 13 weaks for an afternoon charter. This was the beginning of a good run of weaks that sure as hell surprised me. I chased the weaks around Montauk waters until July 16. My best scores came on June 28 with a total of 48 weaks for two anglers on an afternoon trip. July 15 showed a total of 97 weaks for two half day trips. After the sixteenth, the action switched to Block Island. Instead of the long ride of 1 hour and 45 minutes, I could now make the run in under an hour. This allowed more time to seek out fish in the short time period of a half day trip. The best score at the Island was 60 weaks and 50 blues for 4 anglers on an all day trip. The weakfish averaged 8 lbs. both at Montauk and the Island. My last recorded catch of weaks was on July 29th.

Bluefish were available all season. Through the summer, their availability in local waters was scarce. A ride to such distant spots such as Southwest Ledge at Block Island was instead required. Except for some tourist business, my regulars prefer anything but blues, so I do very little bluefishing. Being brief, Montauk had blues, alll season long.

Fluke showed up in June and blitzed heavily. But as good as the beginning was, the end of June and most of July was as bad. Fluke became a scarce item. So much so that I didn't want to even try. By the end of July the fishing was back in stride again. On August 22, besides a catch of blues, I recorded 21 fluke to 8 lbs. This was the start of some very good fluking on Montauk's south side. Many impressive fluke were to be taken in the next couple of weeks. I know of one fluke devotee who had a bang-up day with fish up to 15 lbs. And believe me, a 15 lb. fluke is a rare gem these days. During September I chased the school tuna more than I did the fluke, so what happened late in the season is not firsthand. From what I gather, the best action came the last week of August and the first of September.



Late November provided striper fans with some memorable action.

This must be the first year ever that I did not have one porgy trip recorded. Not even for my own fishing. The demand for porgy trips on a charter boat is minimal and I do not try to encourage it. From past experience, catching porgies is the kiss of death for a charter boat. At least for my business anyway. Friends who fish daily for porgies say it was a mixed season. Except for some small pockets of very large porgies (jumbos), most of the season offered only small fish. Block Island was hot for awhile late in the season giving up some impressive scores the first two weeks in October. Due to poor striped bass fishing in mid-October, I spent some time fishing sea bass, porgies and blacks on some of Montauk's south shore ocean bottom. The fishing was very good with bass up to 4½ lbs. showing regularly and also jumbo porgies. Unfortunately, large bluefish also lived here and eventually the blues would attack almost everything being retrieved back to the boat. One would retreat in disgust after seeing one fish after another being bitten in half, including 4 lb. sea bass, porgies (they didn't stand a chance), and the blacks. After hauling anchor one day and leaving in a cloud of blue language, I heard an angler on the VHF speak of the "great bluefishing at Cartwright," and how he enjoyed "loading up," on these monsters! Had that man been before me I believe I would have grabbed him by the throat and squeezed until his eyes popped out! And if the blues weren't bad enough, the dogfish joined in to make matters worse.

Yes, Montauk had sea bass this year, perhaps even more than last. These fish are rarely sought out in season as porgies are. Most pinhookers would rather go after the security of porgy fishing than the uncertainty of sea bass. So to a great extent, they are left alone until the fall run when they begin to feed with more regularity.

Bonito, those little streaks of

(Continued on next page.)

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lightening, were off this year. Whereas the false albacore were in an abundance that boggled the mind.

The striped bass fishing gets a mixed review this year. Once again, there was little or no spring action; more action during the summer as seen in recent years; a poor early October and a bang-up late November. Late summer and some of September saw a surprising number of bass being taken by mistake while in quest of bluefish in Montauk's local rips. So much so that there began an active pursuit for these "mistakes." After the hurricane, the bass were snapping at each other's tails. I show a catch of 20 bass, plus as many released for October 2nd. That was about the end of that three day blitz. After that, the bluefish made bassing impossible and the bass were scarce. Trying to avoid the relentless amount of big blues to find bass, became the game. It wasn't easy and that's why I broke up many a day's charter with some bottom fishing. October 24th was a good day. First a try for bass on diamond jigs in which we managed two. One weighed 45 lbs. By day's end the catch also showed 100 lbs. of blacks, 30 lbs. of sea bass and 80 lbs. of porgies. Of course, we also had bluefish. On October 26th, four anglers on a morning trip had a great day using jigs. Four bass of 47, 30, 28 and 15 lbs. were taken.

The weather began to act up some as we went into November. This was unfortunate because the bass fishing kept improving. The bluefish never did leave; I had them as late as November 30th, the last day of the bass season. As we came closer to the November moon, the fishing improved with an accent on large bass. Like old times, Shagwong Reef, once a favorite spot for November bass fishing led the way. Not merely for a few days, but for a long period of time. On November 17, during a very strong west wind, 7 bass up to 47 lbs. were trolled at Shagwong. As late as November 27, I had 15 bass there with 4 fish going 30 to 45 lbs. For several good reasons, some social and some weather, I was unable to get in on the nighttime action of big bass that went on during the upside of the moon. Here again, the bluefish raised hell, but some boats returned after a tide with as many as 15 cows. Several fish in the 50 lb. class succumbed during this period. On the last day of the season, in a strong east wind that made fishing the point almost impossible, we managed to hook one big brute at Shagwong between the ever present bluefish. The fish stripped off 100 feet of the trolled wire and broke the leader on the rocky bottom. I guess that's good for her. Maybe when she gets to Chesapeake Bay this winter she will help to propagate the species.

One final note on the bass. Montauk had a showing of bass that hasn't been witnessed here in some years. With the 24 inch size limit, many of the fish were returned. On the south side, these schoolies were thick and scores of 60 caught and only 10 kept was not unusual.

Even though this annual report has been strictly on the inshore species, this year I am breaking away from tradition and adding school tuna. Because of popular demand, I included numerous tuna charters into the past season's agenda.

On a whole, the school tuna fishing was exceptional this year. So good that I was even offering school tuna on a half day trip basis. These half day charters caught best on the morning trips and not the afternoons. The schoolies began to take hold in earnest at the end of July. By the beginning of August things were hot. An August 9 morning trip saw us put 11 tuna in the boat and we busted off half that amount. During the entire season, these "school" tuna had an average of 50 lbs. Also, August offered anglers a mixed bag of not only bluefin, but yellowfin and long fin albacore. All of an impressive size. However, there were no guarantees. As good as it was on the morning of August 9, that's how bad it was during the afternoon. Not a bite. Tuna have moods and roam the ocean freely. If you want a guarantee, fish bluefish.

The third week of September surrendered large catches of yellowfin tuna when weather permitted the long 40 mile run. On Friday, September 20, four anglers put 17 yellowfin tuna in 40 lb. class into my boat in 1½ hours. The fish were chummed up heavily and taking baits off the surface only feet from the boat. Even a beer can was knocked out of the water by the competitive tuna. The same scene was repeated on two days later on the 22nd.

It would appear that the hurricane brought an abrupt halt to the tuna action. My last catch came on September 26th. Two anglers boated their limit by 9AM and had to give up.

To summarize, the surprise of the year was the hot weakfish run that came in July. I had expected less. Codfishing was good and held up to what I hoped for. Flounder were down. Fluke were spotty in season but closed strong. Bluefish—of course!

Porgies were here, but one had to move between Montauk and Gardiner's for steady action. Blacks were mostly pursued in the area of the Race (New London). Due to warm water and dogfish, Montauk's offshore blackfishing never got started until the very end of November. This is not unusual. Blackfishing is best at Montauk in December.

The bass fishing finally got under way after a dodgy October. After witnessing the nedless numbers of released fish this fall, the future looks promising. you may even begin to see some summer action as in years past.

School tuna were a hot item this year and their numbers delighted more than disappointed, most anglers. All in all, it was a good year at Montauk.

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THE POOL SHARK

by Matt Ahern

Along with the label of "pool shark" comes the rank of "master fisherman."

It does seem strange, but just about every time I think of my long ago party boat fishing days, at least ten percent of those daily letters I receive from loyal readers of these weekly articles will contain many of my thoughts. It has always been like that. Let me feel concern about a reader who hasn't written in some time, and I'll be horn-swaggled if I don't hear from that particular person the following day.

Take last week, for instance. One beautiful morning I was outside in the garden cleaning up the remnants of Nature's first killing frost when I heard a gull mewing a certain sound as it flew overhead, a certain sound which triggered memories of those excellent fishermen I knew so many, many years ago. Some, of course, I can yet recall by name and some names have been forgotten in the passage of time. But these fishermen's features, their actions, and their thoughts on the bottom fishing game remain with me still.

Then I thought about these so very good fishermen who were considered pool sharks, and I'll be darned if the next day I didn't receive 14 letters, five of which inquired about my thoughts on pool sharks.

I answered these letters the same day, as I always do. I don't know if my replies coincided with the writers' thoughts on the subject, but I thought, heck, this would be a good theme for an article. I referred to a story I wrote on the subject some years ago to sort of get my bearings and figured I couldn't add anything to what I'd already had to say that would be an improvement.

You know, for some reason I could never fathom, to label a particular fisherman a pool shark has always been considered as a stigma on that fellow's reputation. Why this should be is beyond me, for, as I see it, there's nothing wrong with being a pool shark. Certainly this fellow is not a shady character.

Where and how this branding began, I don't know. But when I began party boat fishing over a half-century ago (about 60 years), the term was common even then; and the blemish attached to it already established. It wasn't unusual to hear one novice warn another: "Don't go in the big fish pool, Johnny; I heard that guy on the bow is a pool shark."

I do admit that most of the time this bit of advice was justified, but not because anything questionable was going on. Pool sharks on board meant tough competition, and the beginner's chances of besting them were slim indeed. But it has long been my belief that the overall term of pool shark is far from accurate. If that novice had said to his buddy: "Don't go in the big fish pool, Johnny; I heard the guy on the bow is a master fisherman," he certainly would have hit it on the head. For truly, that is what these fellows were: master fishermen.

We still have pool sharks today. And to that I say "Thank the good Lord," for these are the fellows who show how it's done. All of us can learn much from them if we will but watch and listen. Many of these fellows have discovered certain party boat skippers are outstanding in their ability to put passengers over the fish. Some pool sharks, however, do keep a low profile and are often difficult to detect. But rest assured that when you and I step aboard a party boat of any reputation, there are one or two of these fellows close by. Whether we are able to single them out means nothing. They are there.

But there is a world of difference between the pool shark of today and the pool shark of yesteryear. Many of those great fishermen of yesteryear were driven by necessity: they had to do everything in their power to win that pool if they and their families were to survive the hectic days of the Great Depression. For many, it was the only way available to garner those much needed dollars. Can we fishermen of today imagine what it must have been to know that your skill with rod and reel was your last chance—perhaps your only chance—to keep the wolf from the door? That your wife and children depended upon that skill to exist? Is it any wonder the greatest bottom fishermen of all time were made during the early 30s. For them it was truly a matter of survival and we shall never see their like again.

I suppose by now you are wondering what brought all this about.

It is easy enough to explain. As I mentioned earlier, I've long held those sentiments you've just read, for not only did I fish during that time, but I was personally acquainted with quite a few of these so-called "pool sharks." They were truly a grand bunch of fellows: no end cheerful in the face of adversity, most helpful to one and all, and for them to willingly share their fishing methods at the request of total strangers was the hallmark of their calling. I know they went out of their way to help me many, many times. As I've often said, I owe them a debt I can never repay.

All these things, their fish-catching ability, their kindness, and so on, have been my bright spot in dark times. And I often wondered if others felt as I did about these great fishermen. Then sometime ago I received a letter from a Walter Schmidt of Island Trees in which he told me the story of his father who, in his younger days, was known as a pool shark. I checked through my files and came up with the letter. (I save all letters pertaining to fishing—some date back to 1939.) The original was 9½ pages long, but I've cut it down considerably.

"I know you don't know me "(Walter writes), "but it is possible you knew my father. He fished the old Rose R II the same time you did. His name was Reiner Schmidt and I think he was the greatest fisherman of all time.

"At the height of the Depression Days, my father worked for Burns Brothers Coal Company during winter, for which he was paid one dollar an hour (very good pay those days); in summer he worked for an ice company (Knickerbocker, I believe), but I don't know what he was paid—probably less, though. I use the term 'work' loosely, because he felt lucky if he put in more than three days a week with each company—usually two.

"Work, as anyone who lived through that sad period knows, was damned hard to find and a man did anything legal to keep himself going. There was no welfare those days, you were on your own. It was your family, your wife, your kids, and you were responsible for what happened to them and their existence rested entirely on your resources.

"I don't know what other men in the same terrible predicament did, but my father added to the family's meager income with his fishing skills. Weather permitting, pop went fishing every day he wasn't working at his part time jobs, and of course, he always went into the big-fish pools, for as Willie Sutton replied when asked why he robbed banks, that's where the money is.

"Fortunately, at the time my father had years and years of party boat experience and to win an occasional pool was far easier for him than for average fishermen. And win them, he

did. How many, I don't know; but in the four years it took for pop to find a steady job, he must have won scores.

"I was entering my teen years then, but I well remember how those pool winnings put extra food on the table. And shoes for me, mom, and my sister. And if he didn't succeed in winning a pool, there was always plenty of fish to eat—although eventually we did tire of it, no matter how well mom's attempt at disguise.

"We lived in a Brooklyn tenement at the time, Wilson Avenue near Cooper Street—one block from the 14th St./8th Ave. Canarsie Line. When it was near time for my father to return from a day's fishing, Sis and I would race to the front room windows which faced on Wilson Avenue and watch for him to appear from the subway exit.

"There he'd come, trudging under the weight of his catch, rod and burlap bag in one hand, the other swinging at his side. He knew without looking up that we'd be there, and it was that swinging hand we watched. If he held it over his head in a victorious sign, it meant that he'd won the pool and there would be more than fish to eat that night. With shrieks of delight, Sis and I would run pell-mell through the rooms to the kitchen, shouting the good news at the top of our lungs.

"Pop's pool winnings did not amount to much when compared to today; the most I can recall him winning at one time was $12—on a big fluke, I believe. But in those days boy's shoes cost a dollar a pair and ladies and girls dresses were often two for a dollar. So that 12 dollars was quite a sum of extra money—and pop might win two pools in one week; sometimes, he did.

"After supper, pop would rest a bit and then walk to John Gliebe's Tackle Shop on Myrtle Avenue near Broadway. Sometimes he would take me along. Here in this grand palace of tackle shops he met his cronies, all crackerjack fishermen, and all the fine points of the day were discussed. Every fisherman those days shared each other's knowledge and I think this was one of the reasons these fishermen were so successful.

"Matt, you can use this letter, if you wish. I just wanted you and your readers to know how some fishermen made ends meet during those awful times. Oh—by the way—Pop was called 'Dutchy' on the boat, Not Reiner; maybe it will ring a bell."

I don't recall Mr. Schmidt's father; but this means nothing. There were so many fishermen cast from the same mold at that time, it would be most unusual if I did. Perhaps he fished on those days I didn't; perhaps anything. But the fact remains that those days produced our best bottom fishermen.

So—the next time you hear someone mention "pool shark," seek that fellow out and become acquainted with a master fisherman.

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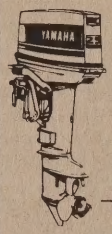

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DEVELOPING YOUR ROD BUILDING SKILLS

Part One—*by Capt. Pete & Tom Mikoleski*

So you finally decided to build your own rod. It's about time! For some reason or another, many fishermen will ask; why bother? As far as I'm concerned, after building many rods (first as a hobby and later on professionally), the question should read why not, but rather **why not?**

After you've been at this game of fishing awhile, you'll probably develop your own preferences concerning the overall length, action, sensitivity and actual weight of your rod for the task at hand. If you really seriously get into fishing, you'll probably never be able to find the "Perfect Rod" right off the shelf. Perhaps you're a dyed-in-the-wool surf rat who disdains the use of live bait and needs a rod with enough action to sling those plugs into the face of a fierce northeaster, and yet is light enough (as in ounces) that will help make those relentless hours of casting and retrieving more bearable. Maybe you frequent a party boat that has very narrow passageways along the rail and you want a rod with a short butt section so you won't have to inconvenience your neighboring fishermen when it's time to walk that big blue up to the bow or back to the stern. Since God didn't make us all six feet tall, a few of us might prefer a little shorter rod that has the same action, to make threading the line through the guides a little easier! Every try to thread a 7 foot rod when you're only 5' 6" on a crowded party boat! On the other hand, maybe you do a lot of trolling on your own boat and instead of outriggers, you depend on longer rods in side mounted rod holders to spread your baits. Or to paraphrase Old Blue Eyes, maybe you'd just rather do it "your way." The possibilities are endless! But I think you get the idea.

Ever notice that those individuals who earn the title "Master Fisherman," realized that the season doesn't only begin in April and end in October! It's a year-round sport, with winters spent going over your much abused tackle. Repairing what has to be fixed, and replacing worn equipment that should be discarded. This is the best time of the season to learn how to build your own rod. Now we're not guaranteeing that building your own rods will make you a better fisherman, but it will keep your mind active and your interest up during the winter. If you think fishing during the winter, it might coerce you to join a fishing club or force you to attend a seminar or two during the dead of winter. (Misery loves company.) Let's face it; you don't have to spend all of your time "paying your dues" on the beach. Consider the time spent working on your own rods as interest credited during the off season. The point I'm trying to make is that it can't hurt, but it can help!

Throughout the next few weeks my brother Tom and I (who operate the Custom Rod Shop) are going to show you how easy it is to build your own rod. In all honesty, you might not save any money when you consider the time involved, but if you're like most of us you'll realize a unique sense of accomplishment (that is priceless) when you start catching fish on your **own** rod. Enough talk; let's get down to some serious business.

The first thing you're going to have to do is to select a blank. The two most important characteristics of a blank that are going to be of concern to us are its length and action.

The first decision you'll have to make is approximately how long you want your finished rod to be. This will determine how long a blank you'll need. Obviously you can select a blank that is a little longer intending to trim it a bit if necessary. Next you have to determine what type of "action" you want. To oversimplify a bit, by action we mean how much weight (lure or sinker) was this blank

Blank ready to be trimed with masking tape in place.

designed to handle. Rod blank manufacturers go through great pains each year to produce updated catalogs that list the important specifications of each blank they make. They are a great source of information and should be used to **guide** your selection. We say guide because the specifications of each blank may be stretched a bit beyond the limitations imposed by the manufacturers to suit your exact needs. For example, if a manufacturer specifies that a certain spinning blank can be used to cast lures from 1/2 to 1¼ ounces, be assured that it will handle lures a little lighter, as well as those a little heavier. By the same token, if you see a listing for a live bait or mooching blank that can handle sinkers weighing between 1½ to 3 ounces, you can be sure that the same blank will have a tip sensitive enough to handle 1 ounce sinkers and enough backbone to deal with 4 or 5 ounce sinkers. So take the manufacturers recommendations with a grain of salt.

If this is your first attempt at rod building and you are baffled by the selection of blanks available, I would strongly recommend that you seek the advice of the person behind the counter. At least for your first rod or two. We have dealt with Lon Wanser in Seaford for many years because he has one of the most complete inventories of blanks and components available on Long Island. I would recommend him highly because everyone at his shop will be more than glad to give the beginner all the help and advice he needs to get started. His prices are also hard to beat. Enough said.

Until you've gained a bit of experience, stick with a hollow fiberglass blank. If possible, try to pick a blank made of S Glass which is lighter and more sensitive than the older E Glass or ancient solid fiberglass blanks. Later I would suggest you use a graphite blank if extreme sensitivity is of utmost concern. Here's an example for a good reason to pick a graphite blank. The light tentative nibble of a sluggish spring flounder will feel like a bolt of electricity through a properly designed and built graphite rod. Graphite rods will cast lighter lures effortlessly as compared to those made of fiberglass. Graphite is also the way to go if you want to build a rod that is very light in actual weight. On the other hand, graphite is very brittle and must be handled more delicately than fiberglass. So save your first graphite rod for a later date after you've produced a few nice glass rods and you have some experience under your belt.

Boron and other composites are the latest in high tech rod blanks. Because of their hefty price tags and because they have yet to be thoroughly field tested, you should leave these to the more experienced rodcrafters for now.

If you can live with the fact that you will definitely lose some sensitivity by choosing a two piece blank over a one piece blank, by all means go ahead. BUT make sure your two piece blank uses a glass to glass ferrule. Metal ferrules are much more trouble than they're worth. Eventually they will wear out to a point that they become useless. They also lose more sensitivity than a glass to glass ferrule. Glass ferrules are also designed to compensate for wear and tear and automatically adjust themselves to ensure a good fit. In all probability, you will never have to repair or replace a glass ferrule but, more than likely a metal one will wear out sooner or later. Not to mention how difficult it becomes to separate a metal ferrule that has been neglected (due to the corrosive effects of saltwater) over the years. A metal ferrule also tends to kill the action in a blank and leaves a dead spot right at the junction of the ferrule. In all honesty, the loss of sensitivity in a two piece blank is minute, so if storage and transportation of your fishing rods is of major concern, a two piece blank would be the logical choice. Just remember that the two piece version of the same blank will cost you approximately one-third more than the one piece blank. One little bit of logic that I can't accept, however, is plunking down top dollar for a graphite blank and then buying a two piece blank. All the extra hard earned bucks you spend on a graphite blank that you've chosen for its extreme sensitivity, I feel are wasted.

"Splining" the blank and finding its strong side.

It is my opinion that a good one piece, S glass blank, will come close to a more expensive, two piece graphite one, in performance every time. So be that as it may, the choice is yours.

It's very possible that the blank you've selected is well, almost perfect. Here is where the rodcrafter's experience really shines. Now we are going to learn how to make the blank perform perfectly! As we said earlier, if you choose a longer blank with an action that's pretty close to what you want, we can fine tune it to perform exactly the way you want, without killing the action. A very good point to keep in mind here is that you should always pick a blank a little longer than you think you'll need to allow for a little fine tuning. Obviously, if you pick a blank that ends up too short, you're up the proverbial creek without a paddle! So be advised ALWAYS lean towards a longer blank when in doubt. If you check out those catalogs you'll find plenty of blanks with similar actions, 6' to a foot longer. Maybe this will make the tip a little too flimsy for your purposes. (For the record, the tip is considered to be approximately one-third of the top section of the rod that gives your casting ability, or determines how much combined weight (sinker + bait) the rod can handle comfortably. On the other hand, the butt section is the rear portion of the blank that

(Continued on next page.)

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determines how much backbone or lifting power the rod has.

If you choose that blank, you can fine tune it by taking a little off the tip until it's just right. Conversely, if the tip is okay, but the rod is a little too long to handle conveniently, you can take a few inches off the butt section until you have a blank that you are happy with. You really have to chop off quite a bit of butt section, say 5 or 6 inches, before you start tampering with the power of the blank. Trimming the tip should be done delicately, a little bit at a time. Remember, you can always take some more off, but you can't put it back on !

How do we determine if the tip is heavy or light enough for what we have in mind? As far as spinning or casting rods go you really have to depend on the manufacturer's recommendations. But as we said before, you can cheat a little bit on either side of his rating. Eventually you will develop a feel for this yourself, but until you do rely on the catalogs or the experience of the person behind the counter. Conventional rods are a little easier to figure out by yourself. What we usually do is tape or tie a piece of string to the end of your blank. Then tie on the heaviest sinker you plan to use on the blank. Notice how the blank flexes. What you're looking for is a moderate bend or flex in the tip of the rod. It should have a gentle curve to the tip, yet it should still have enough reserve power to sink the hook when the time comes. Now try the blank with the lightest sinker you plan to use on that rod. As long as you get some minor deflection of the tip with the lighter sinker you should be in the ballpark. If you've determined by your tests that the blank is a little too flimsy, try taking a little bit off the tip about 1/2 or 3/4 or an inch at a time.

Actually trimming the blank is pretty simple. Make a pencil mark where you want to cut the blank. Then wrap the blank in a thick towel and gently put the blank in a vise close to the pencil mark. Now wrap some masking tape around the blank where you intend to cut it, but make sure the tape is **not** on the portion of the blank that will be excessed. The tape keeps the blank from splintering. Take a fine toothed hacksaw and cut about halfway through the blank. Then rotate the blank 180 degrees (remember, be gentle. Don't crush the blank in the vise) and cut through the rest of the blank. If the tip has any rough edges or burrs, dress the tip with a piece of medium grit sandpaper. Investing in a small diameter copper tubing cutter might be a good idea if you plan to build more than just a couple of rods.

Before we actually put anything on the blank we have to align it and then find its strong side. When rod blanks are made, a special woven glass cloth is wrapped around a steel rod (sometimes referred to as a mandrel) to form the blank. Then it's impregnated with resin, wrapped with cellophane

and cured with heat. Next the cellophane is removed, then the blank is sanded and treated with another resin to give it a smooth finish. When the woven glass cloth is wrapped around the mandrel one side always has more wrap or thickness of glass cloth than the other. This is the reason that most blanks will not flex evenly in all directions. By aligning the blank we want to find this side which is referred to as the spline of the blank. This is probably the most crucial step in custom rod building, which must be done in order to concentrate all the power (that's built into the blank) in the right direction. Once the spline and the strong side of the blank has been found, this will determine on what side of the blank the guides will go. This will differ, depending on whether the rod will be used as a spinning rod or a conventional rod. Unfortunately, this step (finding the spline) is usually neglected when most mass produced rods are manufactured. That's why most of them cast like car radio antennas!

To find the spline hold the blank with the butt on a smooth flat surface at about a 45 degree angle. Support the tip section with the palm of one of your hands. With the fingers of your other hand, press down on the middle of the blank causing it to bend a little. Now roll the blank back and forth. The spline will be found where the rod "jumps" under your fingers. Mark the blank here with a grease or lead pencil. Once the spline is found, now we have to determine which is the strong side of the blank. Hold the rod with one hand somewhere around the butt section with your pencil mark indicating the spline, facing up. Now grab the tip section in your other hand and gently flex the blank back and forth. You will notice it will be harder to flex the blank in one direction, more so than the other. The side which is harder to flex is the strong side. Usually it will be located exactly on the spline itself, or directly opposite it. In either case, mark the strong side of the blank with a piece of masking tape. If you are building a conventional rod, you want to put your guides directly on top of the strong side. This will position the blank so you'll be able to use all the lifting power it has. If you're building a spinning rod, align the guides exactly underneath the strong side. Again, this will give you the most lifting power, as well as assuring you that the blank will be positioned correctly on its axis, for the most accurate casting. As you can see, the blank flexes the same way in either configuration, only the positioning of the guides is different. Again this step is very important, so take your time and check yourself until you're sure that you've got it right before you proceed any further.

You can also try to locate the spline on a finished, mass produced rod the same way. Why not practice it on some of the rods you already own? It may be enlightening!

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SOME BASIC SURF TIPS

by Tom FitzSimmons

A thorough understanding of the basics is essential to be successful in the surf game.

As with any sport or hobby one of the first things that should be understood are the basics involved. You need to understand the basics of operating a tool before you can use it effectively and in a manner that will be most beneficial to you.

If you talk to any experienced, well-seasoned surf fisherman and ask him what the most important thing to learn is, his answer will undoubtedly be that you have to learn the basics. This is based mainly on the fact that a lack of knowledge of the basics can cost you fish, something that many fishermen unfortunately find out the hard way. Many newcomers to surf fishing will concentrate their time and energy searching for some deep dark secret that will bring them success in the surf while almost completely disregarding the obvious. The obvious being an attention to detail and a knowledge of the basics.

While I am sure some surf fishermen may feel other items may be more important, what follows is what I believe to be the most important basic tips that a surf fisherman should know.

The first concerns one of the most neglected pieces of equipment for many fishermen: the reel. In surf fishing your reel takes a lot of abuse. It gets damaged from sand that works its way into the gears, and from salt deposits that build up inside the gear case. Also, grease and oil inside a reel will break down over a period of time and cake up causing the reel to operate poorly or possibly bind up when you finally hook up with that trophy fish. Therefore, your reel should be checked regularly. Depending on the frequency of use and the fishing conditions, a weekly or bi-weekly servicing is a good habit to get into. Your reel should be opened, cleaned and lubricated on a regular basis, not just rinsed off under the tap. Rinsing does not clean out the sand and salt deposits that will build up over time. The drag washers should also be checked and changed periodically. Sand, salt, and constant pressure will damage the washers and prevent them from operating smoothly and can eventually bind when you are fighting a fish.

Secondly, your rod should be inspected before each trip. You should check the guides to make sure they aren't loose or grooved from line wear. Corrosion on a guide can cause the line to weaken and eventually break on a cast or when you are fighting a fish. And, don't forget to check the tip closely for cracks or wear. It's usually the most vulnerable part of a rod anc can easily be damaged which can cause no end of frustration as you break off one fish after the next.

Another important item that deserves your attention is your fishing line. It should be checked often. If you fish three, four or five times a week you should automatically change the line at least once a month. It's inexpensive insurance to assure success in landing your fish. Make it a habit to check your line before each trip and replace it when it has become frayed, brittle, or appears to be changing color. Most important is that before you begin each trip make sure to strip off the first 10 to 15 feet of line and tie a new knot. This portion of the line takes the most abuse simply from casting for a couple of hours, even if you don't hit a fish. Also, after you have been fishing for a couple of hours or have landed a few fish, take a couple of minutes of time out and strip off some line to avoid a problem from line fatigue or from the stress that has been placed on the knot by the fish.

Knots are another important basic. As I mentioned earlier, always tie a new knot each time you go out fishing or after you catch a few fish. Knots become weakened by repeated casts and by the stress put upon them when you catch fish, and a worn or stressed knot will invariably break at the wrong time causing you to regret not spending the minute or two it would have taken to change it; and at the $6 or $7 that a plug costs, a minute of your time will not be a wasted effort.

The type of knot you use is also important. You should use knots that will maintain as much of the line strength as possible. The Palomar, or uni-knot, will give you 100 percent line strength and are quick and easy knots to tie. The Palomar is best for attaching terminal tackle, while the unit-knot is best suited to secure a lure or for making a line to line knot, especially when attaching a heavy shock leader to a lighter line. It does not pull out as many other knots do

and is far superior to the extremely popular blood knot.

Another important basic is to be aware of the condition of your hooks. In order to catch a fish your hooks have to be sharp enough to penetrate the cartilage and bone of a bass or bluefish. Many a missed hookup has been caused by a dull hook. When you purchase a new lure, no matter how sharp the hooks may appear to be, they aren't sharp enough. All new hooks should be sharpened before you use them. The purchase of a small jeweler's file that can be kept in your tackle bag is a good investment. After fishing for a couple of hours, or after catching several fish, your hooks should be checked again, and, if needed, resharpened. You should also periodically check your lures and replace any rusted hooks that are found. Rusting will weaken the hook and could cause it to break at the wrong moment. Remember, too, when replacing hooks, always buy the best and strongest available. If you are not certain which might be the strongest for that specific size hook, consult your local tackle dealer.

Your terminal tackle is also an important basic. When you buy snaps, swivels, etc., try to purchase the highest quality equipment available, for your equipment is all that will stand between you and the fish. Keep in mind the old adage "You get what you pay for." Spending a few dollars extra for quality equipment can save you a lot of disappointments on the beach. This theory also holds true for all the equipment you use: rods, reels, waders, etc.

You have undoubtedly often heard the statement "To become a good surf fisherman, you have to put in the time." In surf fishing, nothing could be closer to the truth. To catch more fish or increase your chances of catching fish, you have to do one main thing and that is to get out there and fish. If you are just beginning to fish the surf, start by fishing a location that has been known to produce, and fish the area often; get to know it; learn where the structure is; where the rips are; where the cuts in the bar are located; what tides produce the most fish; what lures or bait are best to use at which locations, tides and times of the year. After you have learned this spot well enough, move on to another location and gain experience about that area. This not only develops your knowledge of a specific beach area, but further sharpens your skills as a surf fisherman.

Observing other fishermen who are continually catching fish also helps develop your basic skills by making you aware of style, method, use of plugs, etc., that can be applied or adapted to your own fishing habits and technique.

Another basic to remember is to fish with the percentages. The percentages being, in our case, the most productive tides, winds, times of day, etc., associated with a particular location and species. Fishing with the percentages will allow you to put your fishing time to its most productive use by putting you on the beach at what should be the right time. While no percentages in surf fishing even approach the 100 percent mark, fishing logically will help to increase your own catch ratio (number of fish caught vs. number of trips), and since tending to family and business affairs seem to take more and more time away from our fishing, more productive trips make up for the limited time you have available for fishing.

There is no substitute for "putting in your time," particularly when stripers are the quarry. ***Photo by Fred Golofaro.***

The last basic I'd like to discuss is the importance of keeping a log. When a new fishing season is beginning, it may become difficult to remember exactly when and where you found that school of bass or weakfish that responded so cooperatively to your lure last season, and for that matter what lure it was you used. Keeping a log can solve that problem. Almost every experienced surf fisherman keeps a log of the season, recording the date, time of sunrise/sunset, high tide, moon phases, weather conditions (cloudy, sunny, windy, etc.), location, times that were fished, leaving space for notes relating to lures or bait used, general observations and finally, the type and size of the fish caught. While a log can become as complex as you desire, retaining the basic facts can be useful after a period of a few years in formulating patterns that have produced fish in the past and might become worthwhile to follow for the upcoming season, therefore increasing your percentages as mentioned earlier.

All of these basics are important and should become second nature to all surf fishermen. They act as a foundation to be built upon over the years as your experience and expertise grows.

THE WINTER FLY

by Fred Laager

Flyfishing is an interesting hobby that can be practiced year-round and it is a sport that requires a bit of preparation and a lot of practice. As a sport, flyfishing is the delicate presentation of artificial flies to trout and other game fish and it is in the method of presentation that the skill of the angler is tested. As a hobby, flyfishing is the pursuit of the wealth of knowledge that surrounds the sport. It is the lore and the history of flyfishing and it is the study of the habits of the fish you seek. Not to be confined to a few brief months of the year, flyfishing encompasses the hobby of flytying and at a time when Old Man Winter puts an end to the sport, the hobby of flytying is just beginning.

Flyfishing has never been considered a winter sport even by its foremost promoters. The sanctified bard of flyfishing himself, Izaak Walton, once said of flyfishing in winter that, "It is as useful as an almanac out of date" and in the regions where most flyfishing is done over trout waters, he was right.

Mother Nature puts limitations on winter flyfishing in the northeast in various ways. First, snow and subzero temperatures combine to make winter flyfishing not only unpleasant but impossible. Even if the angler can successfully navigate the ice-encrusted stream banks that give way underfoot and make his way to open water a perilous proposition; even if he can manage to muster up enough moxie to endure the Arctic temperatures that are constantly drawing his life's warmth; even if he can manage to tie on a fly with frozen hands; even if he can endure and accomplish all these things, the ice that forms on the rod's guides will eventually foil any attempts he makes at casting.

The feeding habits of the trout also make winter flyfishing a not so profitable proposition. Dry flies, that is, flies that can be seen flying, or Duns as they are called, are seasonal creatures that are scarce on most trout waters between the months of October and April. During the winter, trout feed primarily on nymphs, larvae, shrimp and smaller versions of themselves. Also, in the colder months a trout's metabolism slows and he requires much less food to sustain him. At this time a trout will not go very far out of his feeding lane to hit a fly and it is at this time of the year that the fly must be put right in front of the trout's nose in order to prompt a strike.

Detecting the strike is another matter for not only is the trout's reflexes slowed, but so is the fisherman's. When fishing subsurface imitations such as streamers and nymphs, detecting the strike is difficult enough to do in the summer while being almost impossible to do in winter. Ask a nymph fisherman how hard it is for him to detect the strike and undoubtedly he will laugh at your question and tell you to try it sometime. Detecting the strike requires the delicate feel of the hand on the rod and with a numb hand, that's pretty hard to do.

"Feather pushers" find pleasure in their sport through the barren months of winter.

The other obstacle to flyfishing in winter is the law. Many of the rivers in New York State are closed during the winter and don't reopen until April 1st. There are, however, a few streams that are open year-round but a no-kill regulation prohibits you from keeping any fish you catch. If you really feel the desire to go fishing right now, if you really want to endure Arctic temperatures and learn what it is like to be an Eskimo, then there are many such no-kill rivers that are waiting for you and, you can take my word on this, you won't have to worry about the crowds.

So if fishing for trout in the winter is out of the question, what is a dyed-in-the-wool fisherman supposed to do while the snow is piling up outside? Winter is the training time for flyfishermen and a time for preparation. For those of us who have flyfished before, winter is a time for cleaning up our old gear and getting ready for the next season. It is a time for tying new flies to replace the ones we lost or perhaps invent new patterns that will revolutionize the fishing world. For those of you are who considering taking up the sport, winter is the time to prepare for your first season. It is a time to gather together all the gear that you will need to make you an associate member of the flyfishing fraternity.

There are a few essentials that you will need to be a successful flyrodder. The first is a good rod rated for a six to eight weight line and then, a reel, preferably a single action with some sort of a drag system. The line you purchase should match the rod's recommended line weight rating and a double tapered line is the best choice for most fishing conditions. You will also need a pair of either hip boots or chest waders, a choice that depends upon the average depth of the water you are fishing in, a few leaders and an assortment of flies.

Now here is where flyfishing preparation plays an important role. Although casting is an important element to be learned in flyfishing it is, nevertheless, something that can be learned by the average Joe if he puts his mind to it and practices. Flies however, are a much different matter. There are literally thousands of flies covering dry flies, wet flies, nymphs, streamers, bucktails, terrestrials, bass bugs, saltwater flies and even flies that don't fall into any of these categories. Now if you figure that each fly comes in three or four different sizes, well, that's a lot of flies to choose from. There is in fact no hope for the beginner flyfisherman of acquiring all these patterns before his first season and even if he did, most of them would get lost or prove to be inappropriate under most conditions. The trick, of course, is knowing what flies to buy or, better yet, what flies to tie.

Man is born an angler. These words by Walton echo a time-tested precept of flyfishing and that is that it is a sport that must be studied and practiced. Your local library is the best place to learn about flyfishing and flies and winter affords you the time to start learning. Once you acquire a rudimentary knowledge of the sport, a local tackle shop specializing in flyfishing is the next spot to go to for information, There, a knowledgeable salesman might help you in choosing flies that are "killers" in your area and, if you have any questions about the sport, he might be able to answer them. Remember, flyfishing is a sport that is learned and to learn you must ask questions.

There are two sides to flyfishing. One is the fishing and the other is the tying. Now, everyone who flyfishes

isn't necessarily a flytyer and I've seen some very successful fly fishermen who never once sat in front of a vise. They are, however, very proficient at buying flies and they can always tell a poorly tied fly from a superior one.

When you go to purchase flies examine them closely. There should be no threads hanging from them and the head of the fly should be well lacquered. When purchasing dry flies, the hackle, the part of the fly that is fuzzy and flares out from the shank of the hook, should be stiff and when the fly is placed on a flat surface, the hook should be suspended above the surface. You can purchase flies from a local fly shop or you can mail order them from various suppliers such as Orvis. Keep in mind that a well tied fly like those tied by Winnie and Walt Dette, two famous fly tyers from Roscoe, NY, can cost between $1 and $1.50 each. These flies, the epitome of the art, can compensate for the many sins committed by the novice fly fisherman resulting in more fish in the creel. When one weighs the price of these flies against the amount of fish caught, a dollar or so is a small price to pay for success.

The beginner fly fisherman is generally a cost minded individual who soon realizes that he is losing a good amount of his paycheck to overhanging branches that unerringly seize his fly on the backcast and snap it off far above his reach. To lose ten dollars worth of flies in a single morning's fishing is nothing to the neophyte who has not yet mastered or sufficiently perfected his casting techniques. What is this poor fellow to do to help lessen the cost of his losses? Tie flies, that's what!

Tying flies is a simple and enjoyable hobby that anyone can master with a little practice and a few simple tools. To get started, you should purchase a good vise such as the Thompson Model A. This vise has cam operated jaws and as vises go, is very inexpensive. It can hold flies from size No. 1 to size No. 26 and can be purchased through the mail or at a fly shop. If you are in the mood for a little handywork, I have seen a pair of vise grips welded to a piece of 3/8 rod that makes a fine vise. I myself use the needlenose vise grips to tie larger saltwater patterns because they can hold hooks up to size 7/0 securely. A vise constructed out of these "pliers" might cost only $15 to construct.

The second tool that you will need is a bobbin. This is a tool that holds a spool of thread and feeds it out at a constant pressure through a metal tube onto the shank of the hook. Here, there is no skimping. Buy a good one for about $5. When I started tying, about 10 years ago, I tried to make all the tools myself. I made a bobbin out of wire and rubber bands and I got by with it. When I finally splurged and bought a "real bobbin" I saw the error of my ways immediately. With the feeder tube of this device you can wrap the hook with thread in a matter of seconds rather than minutes and the constant pressure of spring steel prevents the thread from breaking if you happen to pull on it too hard.

A few basic tools enable anyone to enjoy the art of fly tying.

The third tool to procure is a good scissor. The scissor is used to trim hair bodies and wings, cut hackles, hair, latex, wool, and any of the hundreds of materials used in fly tying. A good pair of scissors that can cut cleanly even at the tips are one of the keys to producing a good looking fly.

With these three tools you can make any fly but, as you become more experienced, other tools such as half-hitch tools, a dubbing needle, hackle guard, hackle plier, wing gauges, dubbing pickers, line weaving tools and material clips make the job easier and help you to produce a superior product. But, for a start, keep things simple and master the rudiments first.

Hooks, furs, feathers, floss, thread and tinsel are the other materials that you will need to acquire to get started fly tying. Hooks and thread you must buy. Tinsel? That you can get off a discarded Christmas tree. Furs and feathers? Those you can scrounge almost anywhere. When I started fly tying I secured my materials from anything I could find. To me, nothing was sacred. A patch of hair snipped from my St. Bernard became a fine streamer fly for shad fishing while a few polyester filaments from my living room rug became the dubbing that I use to make the bodies of a few dry flies. I have even gone so far as to clip a few hairs from my sleeping nephew to produce a fine specimen of a Platinum Blonde for bluefishing. Undoubtedly my most underhanded caper was the pilfering of some excellent skunk fur from a new coat that my father had given to my mother. I meticulously removed various guard hairs from the garment so as not to mar its appearance, but, when viewing the coat under a bright

(Continued on next page.)

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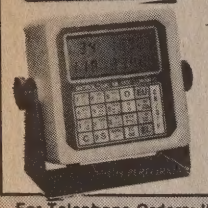

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light I can still see an inch of hide where the fur used to be. The long black hairs did produce the finest Black Gnat I ever fished with and I think that it was well worth the risk I took in procuring the materials. I only hope that my mother never reads this. She thinks I'm a saint.

As for feathers, you can find most of them down at the local duck pond, but the best way to get them is to locate someone who hunts, especially ducks—and that shouldn't be so hard to do on Long Island. One duck's feathers are enough to tie hundreds of flies. If you plan on buying them, a fly shop will have everything you need but perhaps, at a not-so-cheap price, so buy only those feathers that you will definitely use. A craft store is a better choice. There, brightly colored saddle hackles can be acquired at bargain prices.

Once you have mastered fly tying you have become your own tackle store. Whenever you need a few flies to go fishing, you sit down and tie them. By being a fly tyer you can also match the hatch when you have to. One morning, I left my job at the Yaphank Post Office and went down the block to the Carmans River. The trout were feeding voraciously on a fly known as the Iron Blue Dun, but it was a smaller than usual version that I had no imitation for. After being skunked for two hours, I decided to go home and have lunch. I brought a few of the naturals home with me and quickly tied up four or five flies to match them. That afternoon, I returned to the river and caught my limit three times over including a large brown that had shunned the larger Blue Duns that morning. Being able to match the match is a definite asset in fly fishing.

Well, that's all you will need to know to get started fly fishing, that along with a little enthusiasm and a place to fish. Long Island is the home of four great rivers: the Peconic, the Carmans, the Nissequogue and the Connetquot. All of these rivers, except for the Peconic, hold a good population of trout that are more than happy to take a well presented fly. The Peconic is the home of some fine black bass fishing and a small bass bug twitched on the surface can promote strikes that will make the waters erupt around you. If you are looking for something a bit more out of the way, the Catskills offer some of the finest trout fishing in the country. The Beaverkill, Willowemoc, Navesink and Delaware are four of the most famous rivers in this country and considered the birthplace of fly fishing in America. Any one of these rivers along with the smaller creeks that feed them are excellent for fly fishing and are far from being overcrowded. The trout and bass they hold are just waiting for you, so be prepared with a good supply of flies. The season opens in just a few months so get started tying right now. When the fishing gets hot you'll not have time to do anything else but fish.

RECORD BREAKERS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

A 545 LB. THRESHER SHARK CAUGHT BY BOB SCHWARTZ OF WEST ISLIP, L.I. IN JUNE 1976 IS NOW RECOGNIZED AS THE NEW N.Y. STATE RECORD FOR THIS FISH REPLACING THE 380 LB. THRESHER IN THIS CATEGORY. BOB MADE HIS CATCH WHILE FISHING FOR THE ...
...BABYLON TUNA CLUB IN THE ANNUAL BAY SHORE MAKO TOURNAMENT.
A 77 LB. AMBERJACK IS NOW THE NEW JERSEY STATE RECORD FOR THESE JACKS AND WAS BOATED BY HARRY BRANDENSTEIN OF HADDON HEIGHTS FISHING...
... OUT OF SEA ISLE CITY ABOARD THE "CAPT. ROBBINS". THE 56½-INCH LONG FISH TOOK A CAST AVA-27 JIG WITH A RED TUBE TEASER.
A 1 LB. SCUP IS THE NEW ALL TACKLE WORLD RECORD FOR PORGIES AND WAS CAUGHT BY ADAM KOLEK FISHING OUT OF DARTMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS.
A 27 LB. 4 OZ. COHO SALMON BECAME THE NEW YORK STATE RECORD FOR THESE FISH. IT WAS LANDED BY JOSEPH W. NOBRIGA, JR. OF ADDISON FISHING IN THE UPSTATE SALMON RIVER.
HEAVIEST COHO ON RECORD IS 31 LBS.
A 24 LB. 4 OZ. BLUEFISH IS NOW THE NEW JERSEY STATE RECORD FOR CHOPPERS AND WAS TAKEN TROLLING OFF ATLANTIC CITY BY CARMEN COSTANTINO OF MT. LAUREL. THE BIG BLUE HIT AN "EVIL EYE" SHINY SPOON LURE.
AN 8 LB. SPINY DOG-FISH IS THE NEW ALL TACKLE WORLD RECORD FOR...
...THESE SHARKS. IT WAS CAUGHT BY DAVID E. SINGER FISHING CAPE COD BAY, MASSACHUSETTS.

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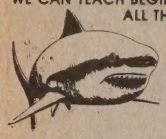

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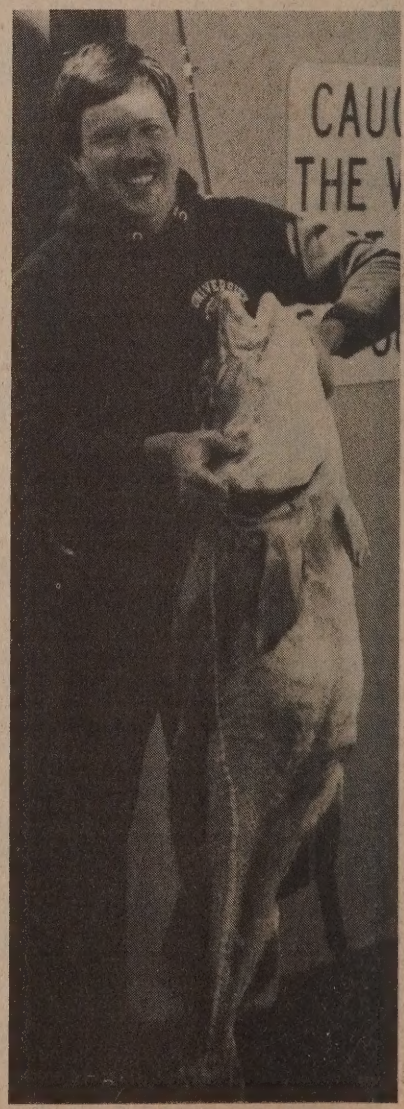
East End REPORT

Another quiet week around these parts with a bad easter keeping even the commercials tied to the dock. Many east end skippers spent the weekend talking fishing in the comfort of Nassau Coliseum, where the Sportsmen's Expo was berthed thru Sunday.

MONTAUK

Capt. John DeMaio of the charter boat **Vivienne** said that the Point re-



Father Bob McKee decked this trophy 56 lb. cod while fishing aboard the Montauk based charter boat "Vvienne."

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mained quiet as a bad easter wiped out any fishing activity. He also reminded that he is booking spring cod trips from March through June at a special spring rate. The skipper noted that being able to cruise at 20 mph will enable him to fish more distant cod grounds as the season progresses.

Captains Bob Rocchetta of the charter boat **Rainbow** and Capt. Al Ristori of the Sherri Berri seemed to always have a crowd around their booth at the Sportsmen's Expo. They were busy extolling the virtues of Sabre's line of standup offshore rods. An exciting video provided further entertainment.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Fishing activity moved indoors this past weekend with many anglers focusing their attention on the Sportsmen's Expo held at Nassau Coliseum. An easterly blow, accompanied by plenty of rain and rough seas kept many codfish hopefuls at bay. As a result, trout, tommy cod and a few white perch continue to provide the bulk of the winter action. Also, we did receive one report of flounder taken in the Quogue Canal on Thursday. Here's what we've been able to scrape up for the week.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

From **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue,** Joe Modica spoke of a pick of white perch in both Tuthils Creek and Swan River. Some trout action with sea runs in both rivers as well. Joe noted that the shop is currently being expanded but despite the renovations they will remain open for business as usual. Their winter hours will continue to be 9AM to 6PM, Monday through Saturday. They are closed on Sundays.

Al Colban of **J & R Sports Center** in

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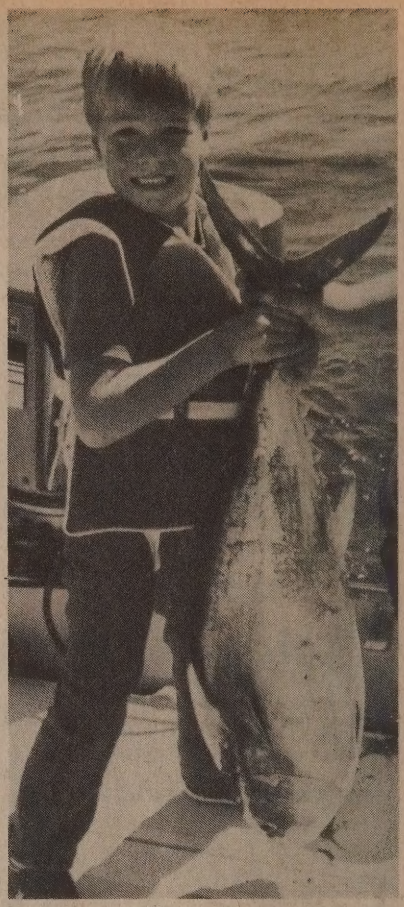

Seven-year-old Paul Visentin struggles with a 35 lb. bluefin tuna he caught south of Shinnecock last summer.

Oakdale reported lots of trout in Bubbles. Many are small but some nice fish are among them. Al Jermeurein clicked with a 4½ pound 23" brown trout taken on a worm during the week. Pat Lunca used a worm to fool a 2½ pound rainbow. Another angler checked in what appeared to be a 4½ pound coho salmon taken while perch fishing in the tidal reaches of the Connetquot. There was an attempt at establishing a coho fishery in the river a number of years ago. Many attributed its apparent failure then to predation by blues and weaks. Interestingly, a number of salmon were taken last season in the bay by netters and anglers.

I chatted with Carl Miller of **Smokey's Tackle Shop** in **Bay Shore** at the Expo. He revealed that some very nice trout were coming from the tidal reaches of the Connetquot. Also a fair number of tommy cod being taken in some of the holes. Nothing on perch however.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Captree** based open boat **Capt. Joseph II** that for all intents and purposes, the weekend was a washout. Though a few boats did make an attempt at cod fishing on Saturday, all had to cut their trips short and return to the dock early due to rough seas. No one even

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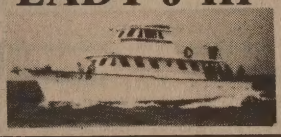

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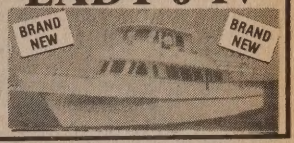

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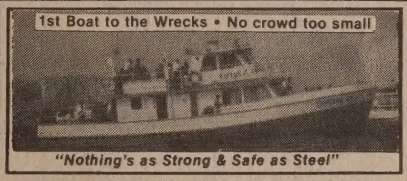

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attempted to clear the inlet on Sunday.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the open boat **Captree Queen** dittoed Charlie Kennedy's report saying that the easterly blow kept him dockside both Saturday and Sunday.

From **Augie's Bait and Tackle** in **Babylon**, Tom Healy spoke of another quiet week. Very little in the way of fishing activity as Tom tried perch fishing himself on Saturday and drew a blank. Steve Pace, Jr. who was looking for perch with a small jig and Mr. Twister tail, instead found a 2½ pound carp during his sojourn to Carll's River.

Frank Pristera of **Edelman's** in **Farmingdale** relayed word that Bob Santiago boated 25 flounder from ¾ to 1½ pounds on Thursday. He worked the Quogue Canal in the vicinity of the first bridge. Mussel bait and chum produced the fish. Frank added that Edelman's is now carrying a full line of Lee fighting chairs and outriggers.

West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

The area has seen almost a solid week of blasting wind and horrendous sea conditions. As a result, many anglers remained home and on the boats that did go after cod, numbers of fish caught were not mind boggling. Those who persevered however, had acceptable catches with some giant fish caught.

WEST END BAYS/ JONES INLET

Over at **Causeway Bait and Tackle** in Wantagh, Mike says some of his customers fished for cod in 90 feet of water in private boats on open bottom, slugging it out with some very rough seas. Results ran from terrible to fair. However, fish ran 13 to 15 pounds and the biggest he knew of for the week was a 45 pounder. This was open bottom on the hook.

Working out of Freeport, Captain Richie Kessinger's **Starstream II** noted that the weather was terrible and rough all week long. However, on the days he could get out, the skipper fished his passengers mostly over open bottom with some additional time on local wrecks. The dogfish

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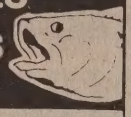

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have eased off considerably, Richie said. One day saw twelve fares bag 20 cod, another day fifteen anglers hoisted 30 fish, while 12 was the body count for Saturday. Fish have been averaging 10 to 14 pounds with a few 30 pound class pool winners.

We hear from Captain Al Lindroth of the open boat **Captain Al** who also mourned the fact that this was not the best week's action he's ever seen. Things were hot and cold during the week fish-wise, but on Saturday Al says under horrible fishing conditions he hit three wrecks and found fish on all of them. Alex Drobishevich, of Ozone Park rang the bell with six cod to 30 pounds, while Scott Phillips was very happy with his four cod to 35 pounds. There are also some blackfish mixed in. On Sunday due to the rain and Super Bowl game, no people showed and so it was a day off for the boat.

NEW YORK BIGHT

Over at **Mike's Tackle** in Sheepshead Bay, directly across from the fleet, Wee Willie told of some big blackfish weighed in at the store during the week, namely a 9½ and a 10 pounder, all action at 17 fathoms on green crab. Whiting this past week due to the storm and ugly conditions and seas ran from very picky to barely fair. Some ling are still around but have really not been pursued. The wee one expects everything to pick up again once the seas and winds subside.

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VERY EXPENSIVE—Very Expensive—Very Expensive. Edelman's is NOT very expensive. See ad on Page 2.

Continued On Next Page

MUSTAD HOOKS & Other Fine Tackle at sensible prices. Free catalog. TERMINAL TACKLE CO., Box 427, Kings Park, NY 11754.

CATCH MORE FISH—with superior designed saltwater rigs. Send for free catalog now! HUDSON TACKLE, Dept. I, P.O. Box 437, Kearny, NJ 07032.

ICE EYES—World's only portable hand-held Sonar. 1.5 lbs. To find fish, submerge nose in water or sound through clear ice. Reg. $169.95. Order direct & save $30. 139.95 or for brochure write B&I ELECTRONICS, 246 S. Main St., Albany, OR 97321; 503-928-5375.

FOR SALE

1 Penn Internat'l 130H w/custom bent butt rod-$900; 1 Penn Internat'l 80W w/custom bent butt rod-$750; 1 Fin-Nor light 50 lb. reel w/custom straight butt, 80 lb. rod-$500; 1 Penn Internat'l 12 reel-$175; 4 Fin-Nor light 50 lb. reels-$275 ea.; 1 Fin-Nor light 30 lb. reel-$250. All equip. in top cond., under warranty & in original boxes. Most purchased new in '85. 516-354-2674.

MISCELLANEOUS

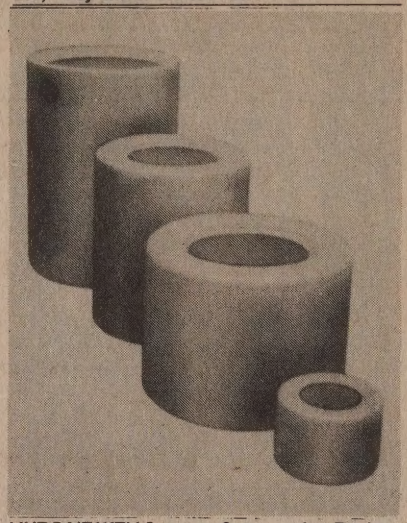
WANTED: 1980 to 1985 23' SEA OX center console without motor. 718-465-4062.

NORTH SHORE TRAP CO., St. James, NY. 516-584-6870. Vinyl coated lobster, crab, eel traps and all lobstering equip.

BAYHEAD MARINA: Winter storage, boats & motors. All winter services avail. Factory certified mechanics. 718-525-5724.

WORMS: Gray Night Crawlers—$30/1000. Red-worms—$10/1000. Postpaid. TIMOTHY FARMS, 318-F Floyd, Lake City, SC 29560.

HELP WANTED: First mate, full time. Friendly, courteous persons only apply. Open Boat "Casey Lee," Bay Shore. 516-661-1867.



LIVE BAIT WELLS, pumps & accessories. For free brochure, send $.25 p/h. THE CADDY CO., 57 Bayonne Av, Dept. E, Central Islip, NY 11722; 516-234-0144.

DO YOU like codfishing in New England? Then The Fisherman has a book for you. "Codfishing in New England" w/16 chap., covers both inshore & offshore, from Block Isl. to Kennebunkport, Ma. Price $4 + $.65 post. CT Res add $.25 tax. Send check or M.O. to: THE FISHERMAN, P.O. Box 211, 2 Denison Av, Mystic, CT 06355.

LICENSE PLATE FRAME says it for you. "I'd Rather Be Fishing." Non-rusting, hi-impact, black polystyrene w/raised white letters. 1-$4.95; 2-$8.95 + $1 p/h. Send ck or M.O. to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566. Satisfaction guaranteed.

HOUSE PAINTING: Interior & Exterior by Jack "The Painter" Murray. Let us paint while you fish. 516-273-0960.

BOAT UPHOLSTERY, chairs, cushions, seats, panels. Canvas repair. Zippers & plastic windows replaced. Dan, Eves: 666-3326.

GOVERNMENT JOBS $16,040-$59,230/Yr. Now hiring. 805-687-6000, Ext. R-3617 for current Federal list.

FULLY LICENSED CAPTAIN—water deliveries, boat/navigation instruction; charters & trips. 516-795-4498.

COD RECIPES: 4 easy, taste-pleasing old family recipes. $2. PERRY, 116 E. Mosholu, Bronx, NY 10458.

AVAILABLE AT LAST! Beautiful full color print of artist Gary Patterson's famous painting "Half Day Boat." You won't believe the detail & crazy activities going on aboard. If you've ever fished on party boats you'll really love this print. 18"x24"; looks fantastic framed. Only $9.95 + $1 p/h to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566.

REAL ESTATE

RENTAL—Florida. Key Largo waterfront 2BR house/ac. Close to Pennekamp Coral Reef Park. Swimming, snorkeling, backcountry & ocean fishing. Week, monthly. After 5PM: 914-356-4297.

BAYVILLE, NJ: beautiful new 3BR, 2Bth lagoon home, accesses Barnegat Bay, Avail. Feb. on 6-24 month lease. Purchase opt. avail. 201-747-6754.

HOLLYWOOD BEACH, FLORIDA

Ocean Queen Motel—rooms, efficiencies. Directly on beach, minutes to charter boats. $25 p.p./day Double Occupancy. Reserv. 800-874-8850.

—CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM—

COPY: (Please Print)

CLASSIFIED RATES: Subscribers—20 cents per word with a 15 word ($3.00) mininum. Non-Subscribers—40 cents per word with a 15 word ($6.00) minimum. Count phone number as one word.

Send with Check or Money Order to:

THE FISHERMAN

POST OFFICE BOX 1994 • SAG HARBOR, N.Y. 11963

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . —0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	10:40	11:15	11:25	—	11:15	11:50	12:00	12:15	1:40	2:00	1:45	2:05	10:45	11:15	1/30
FRI.	11:30	—	12:00	12:15	—	12:05	12:50	1:10	2:25	2:50	2:30	2:55	11:35	—	1/31
SAT.	12:10	12:25	12:50	1:10	12:40	1:00	1:45	2:05	3:15	3:45	3:25	3:55	12:10	12:30	2/1
SUN.	1:05	1:25	1:50	2:10	1:35	1:55	2:40	3:15	4:10	4:50	4:20	4:55	1:10	1:35	2/2
MON.	2:10	2:35	2:55	3:15	2:40	3:05	3:45	4:25	5:15	6:05	5:25	6:05	2:10	2:40	2/3
TUES.	3:20	3:50	4:05	4:30	3:50	4:25	4:50	5:30	6:30	7:45	6:35	7:15	3:20	3:45	2/4
WED.	4:25	5:00	5:15	5:40	5:00	5:35	5:55	6:30	8:05	9:00	7:40	8:20	4:20	4:45	2/5
THURS.	5:30	6:00	6:15	6:45	6:05	6:35	6:50	7:30	9:20	10:00	8:45	9:20	5:15	5:45	2/6

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehobeth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+4:03
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	—0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	—0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point, north side	—1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	—0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	—1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:		RISE:	SET:
THU.	1/30	7:15	5:12
FRI.	1/31	7:14	5:13
SAT.	2/1	7:13	5:15
SUN.	2/2	7:12	5:16
MON.	2/3	7:11	5:18
TUE.	2/4	7:10	5:19
WED.	2/5	7:09	5:20

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:		RISE:	SET:
THU.	1/30	10:26PM	9:44AM
FRI.	1/31	11:38PM	10:07AM
SAT.	2/1	—	10:33AM
SUN.	2/2	12:52AM	11:03AM
MON.	2/3	2:08AM	11:39AM
TUE.	2/4	3:24AM	12:25PM
WED.	2/5	4:36AM	1:21PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
1/10	1/17	1/26	2/2

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	8:30	2:20	8:55	2:40
Fri.	9:20	3:10	9:45	3:30
Sat.	10:10	4:00	10:40	4:25
Sun.	11:05	4:55	11:35	5:20
Mon.	11:55	5:45	—	6:15
Tues.	12:30	6:40	12:50	7:10
Wed.	1:25	7:35	1:45	8:10
Thurs.	2:25	8:35	2:45	9:05

NEW ULTRA-SENSITIVE PRIME®. IT WILL CATCH FISH YOU DIDN'T KNOW WERE THERE.

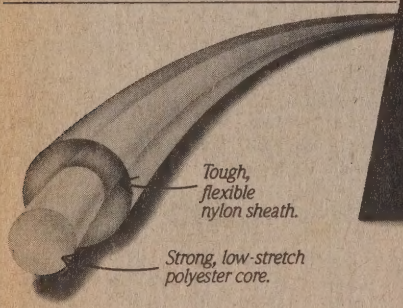
Fishing is a contact sport. Until you make contact, you can't catch fish.

That's why Du Pont has patented a whole new kind of fishing line. Ultra-sensitive Prime.

Prime makes contact so positive, so effective, it's almost eerie.

You'll feel more fish. Hook more fish. So you can catch more fish.

THE WORLD'S FIRST AND ONLY COFILAMENT.



To create Prime, Du Pont introduced the first cofilament fishing line. It combines the advantages of two very different materials—a core of strong, low-stretch polyester surrounded by a sheath of tough, yet flexible, nylon. It marks the leading edge of line technology.

YOU CAN FEEL THE DIFFERENCE YOU SEE.

Prime looks different. But you have to fish it to discover the real difference—Prime's sensitivity. In blind tests, fishermen using Prime reported an uncanny ability to feel what was happening down at the business end of their lines.

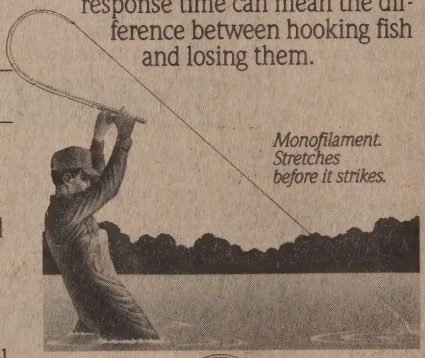
Put Prime to your own test on water you know really well. You'll feel details of underwater structure you may have overlooked. Lure action that was lost to you. Hits you missed.

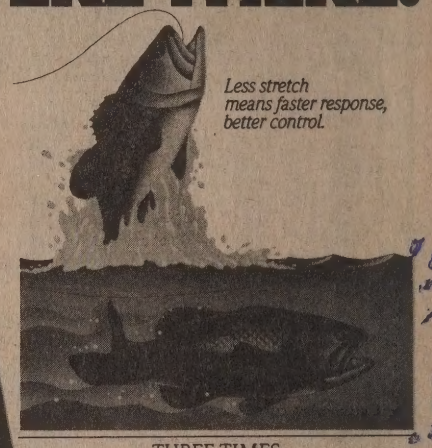
Set the hook. Prime's speed and power will surprise you. And the fish.

The reason? Prime has half the stretch of nylon monofilament in water. Action that gets lost in the stretch of regular line sends tremors of information back through Prime.

TWICE THE HOOKSETTING SPEED.

Low stretch also gives Prime extra-quick reflexes. With conventional nylon line, there's a lag between the sweep of the rod and the bite of the hook. With Prime, you set the hook. Right now. This split-second response time can mean the difference between hooking fish and losing them.





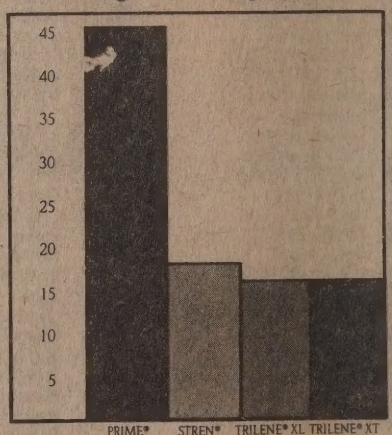
THREE TIMES THE HOOKSETTING POWER.

Prime is not only fast, it's powerful. With nearly three times more hooksetting power than the leading monofilaments. You can set the hook as well with 8-pound test Prime as you can with 20-pound mono.

What are the trade-offs?

None. Prime handles and casts beautifully. It's strong every way a line should be strong. It's tough. And it's visible, a soft fluorescent green.

Now you can re-explore your favorite water. Make your next cast with new ultra-sensitive Prime. And start fishing with feeling.



Force transmitted by wet lines in kilograms per square inch (Kpsi)

DU PONT